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Tuesday June 2 1998

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

My story, by John Diamond

When a coward gets cancer

G2 with European weather

The call of the wild...

Gazza's friends

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Education

Danger of the American way

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Hague alters line of attack

Michael White
Political Editor

WILLIAM Hague yesterday admitted the failure of the Conservatives' first year in Opposition when he reshuffled his shadow team to bring more effective fire to bear against the most vulnerable points of New Labour's defences.

The most dramatic signal of Mr Hague's determination to expose Tony Blair's inability to deliver all he promised in his famous "five early pledges" was the Tory leader's promotioo of the combative ex-prisons minister, Ann Widdecombe.

The woman who ruined Michael Howard's leadership hopes with the phrase that he had "something of the night" about him, will now be expected to do the same to the street-smart Frank Dobsoo — whose health team has yet to reverse rising NHS waiting lists, one of Labour's early pledges.

"When do I get stuck in?" Miss Widdecombe, one of only two women at the top Tory table, asked upon appointmeot. As she spoke, Labour taunted the Conservatives over a further rightward "slide into irrelevancy", and the Liberal Democrats jokingly suggested that Mr Hague would have won more public attention by promoting two of this week's other reshuffle victims — *Gazza and Ginger Spice*.

But Mr. Hague also gave a key post to the acerbic Francis Maude, who replaces the lacklustre Peter Lilley as shadow chancellor, with the job of tracking Gordon Brown.

Mr Lilley, another defeated leadership rlval, becomes deputy Tory leader — one of the the reshuffle's few gestures to the Right, with special responsibility to develop long-term policy.

The equally cerebral David Willetts is ona of six oew names to join the shadow cabinet. In taking over the educatioo portfolio from the diffident Stephen Dorrell, his task will be to attack David Blunkett over school class sizes — another early Labour pledge — and what the Tories believe to be simmering tensions within the Government over the best ways to raise school standards.

The extensive reshuffle, which saw eight Class of '97 MPs join the lower end of the frontbench team, left little blood on the carpet at Tory HQ. Lord Parkinson will step down as "retread" party chairman in October, almost certainly a year earlier than he had hoped, when he will be 67.

The moderate Michael Ancram, promoted from the coostitutional brief, becomes his deputy and successor in waiting. Michael Howard (foreign affairs) and John Redwood (trade), both rottweillers of the right and relatively successful in an underpowered team, stay in post.

Sir Norman Fowler, the Great Survivor of Tory reshuffles for 25 years, takes over Sir Brian Mawhinney's Home Office portfolio, while Gillian Shephard, who changed her mind about stepping down, takes his shadowing John Prescott.

Sir Brian and Mr Dorrell had signalled their wish to retire from shadow office, unlike Alastair Goodlad, ex-chief whip turned shadow overseas aid minister, who went reluctantly, Tory officials conceded.

John Maples, effectively demoted from health, was giveo defence:

Sir George Young survived a mova from defence to shadow leader of the Commons. More surprisingly, so did Andrew Mackay, who remains Northern Ireland spokesman, desplte being in Africa on holiday when the peace deal was reached in Belfast. Other shadow cabinet newcomers are Llam Fox (constitutional affairs), Peter Aiosworth (culture), and Gary Streeter, who gets the aid post. At 36, Dr Fox is actually younger than Mr Hague.

Last night most Tory MPs rallied loyally to what their leader called "new blood at all levels," including his Mandelsonian adviser, Alan Duncan, who will be Miss Widdecombe's deputy — an exotic pairing.

Though some MPs tried to analyse the changes in left-wing Eurosceptic/Europhile terms, the tone was essentially pragmatic, or "balanced" as Hagueites put it. Some still predict a split over Europe.

Mr Hague's personal ratings have slipped from minus 15 to mimus 25 points, while his party has slipped from 27 to 26 par cent agaiost Labour's steady 55 per cent in the latest Mori poll.

Many MPs had predicted that Mr Hague would wait for Tony Blair's postponed reshuffle. But aides insisted that the date had been pencilled in for weeks. The new team is soon to begin a "Listening to Britain" exercise among voters throughout the country.

Leader comment, page 11

Where did he go wrong? Was it his fitness or was it his friends?

Paul Gascoigne drives past waiting journalists as he leaves his wife's home in Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire, yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: IAN HODGSON

Helen Carter and David Lacey

IN LA Manga Glenn Hoddle did his best to explain a decision which has split the conntry. Paul Gascoigne, he said, simply wasn't np to it. "Physically and mentally he hasn't heen at his best during this period of time.

"I have to have players who can stay on for 90 minntes and nnfortnnately Paul didn't come into that category."

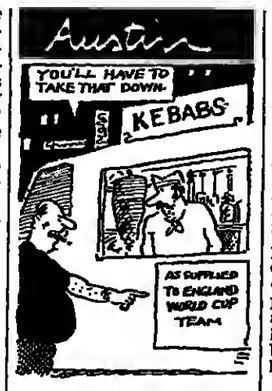
In tha Commons, no strangar to treacherons deeds, there was hroad agreement with England's coach. Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, described it as "a very hrave decision. My own feeling is that it was the right one." Even William Hague broke off from dropping a few team members of his own team to admit that "these decisions are not easy".

But elsewhere there was astonishment that the axe had been wielded so brutally on England's erstwhile hero. First and londest with the outrage was the disc jockey Danny Baker, who is blamed by many for leading Gascoigne astray.

"Glann Hoddle Is no genius, he's no Terry Venables who knows how to manage people, he's given up, he's run op the white flag, he's done the easy option," Baker said oo London's Carlton Tonight.

"What can Glenn Hoddle see the rest of the world can't? As for these self-satisfied idiots full of cant who ars going to say he's hronght It on himself, that's a nonsense. The entire existence of Paul Gascoigne as a wild man, an Oliver Reed, does not exist."

Gascoigne's 54-year-old father, John, qnestioned Hoddle's helief system. "I'm not bitter towards Glenn Hoddle, hnt he is a born again Christian and



they are not snpposed to lls," he said. "He shouldn't have built Paul's hopes np just to drop him like that. All the signs from Glenn Hoddle were that his place was assured."

Mr Gascoigne had spent more than £1,000 so he could watch his son play in France. "The way Panl hroke it to me was by telling me to cancel my holiday in France. He was angry, depressed and tearful," he said.

The tears seem beyond dispute. Hoddle, choosing his words meticulously at the sqnad camp in La Manga, Spain, admitted that Gascoigne was not best pleased by his exclusion. "He was very, very disappointed," the England coach said, "but no different to any of the other five players left out. It wasn't an enjoyahle job telling him or any of the other boys, to be quite frank, but It had to be done."

Gascoigne spent yesterday with his wife Sheryl — who is suing for divorce — and two-year-old son Regan. The only visitor allowed in the house in Stanstead Ahhots, Hertfordshire, was his longtime confidante Sun deputy editor Rebekah Wade.

Equally opset were his friends Chris Evans, "devastated", and Jimmy 'five bellies' Gardiner, who denied that the parties, kebabs and drink had been detrimental to his chum's fitness. "I have known him 23 years and it's never had an effect on him before. Why should It now?" he said. "It didn't affect him in 1990 or in 1996."

Amid all the astonishment there were more tales of drinking. Portsmonth manager Alan Ball said that Gascoigne had drunk pints of Guinness during a testimonlal at Fratton Park, in froot of a 12,000 strong crowd.

"He's got no one to hlame hnt himself," said Ball, who played for England in the cnp-winning 1966 squad. "He has shown a lack of professionalism in preparing for the greatest competition in the world."

Leader comment, page 11; End of an era, page 14; With friends like these, G2, page 4

The most secret crime

For six months, the Guardian has conducted the most detailed and exhaustive investigation of paedophilia that has ever been undertaken by a British newspaper. Nick Davies, awarded the prestigious Feature Writer of the Year title at this year's British Press Awards, has tracked down abusers and their victims, spoken to the social workers and detectives and Customs officers who deal with them, to private agencies and to the most senior officials who lead the defence against child abuse.

The results of courageous work by thousands of dedicated men and women has been witnessed — but so have the results of cover-up and concealment, occasionally of corruption, of whistleblowers who are punished for trying to expose the truth, of local authorities, churches and other organisations who have closed ranks to deny or conceal allegations against their staff.

In an investigation of this, the most secret of crimes, the Guardian has found evidence of what is an open secret among many of those who fight it — that after 20 years of scandal and alarm, after numerous inquiries and reports, and despite the best efforts of those who work in it, the state has created an elaborate and sophisticated failure, a child protection system which does not protect the children.

Part one of special four-day investigation

Big CPS shake-up to bring in 'district attorneys'

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

A NEW chlef execntlve will move into the beleaguered Crown Prosecution Service this week to start a massive shake-up after a damning report yesterday into the tenure of Dame Barbara Mills as Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mark Addison, former private secretary to Baroness Thatcher, will start work on a root and branch reorganisation of the £300 million a year service, shifting power from the London headquarters and into the hands of local prosecutors in 42 new areas.

Dame Barbara, who has been DPP since 1992 and whose contract expires oext April, has agreed to stand down as soon as her successor is appointed. The loogawaited report from a team headed by Sir Iain Glidewell, a retired appeal court judge, concludes that a 1993 reorganisation of the service under Dame Barbara was "a mistake". The organisation had become "too centralised and bureaucratic".

It recommends freeing senior lawyers from paperpushing and putting them back in the courts prosecuting criminals. Straightforward cases would be dealt with by integrated units of CPS lawyers, caseworkers and police, to end duplicatioo between CPS and police work.

The report says: "In various respects there has not been the improvement in the effectiveness and efficiency of the prosecution process which was expected to result from the setting up of the CPS in 1986."

Sir Iain's inquiry was set up by Labour when it came to power in May last year, to address accusations that the CPS discontinued too many prosecutions, downgraded charges so cases could be heard more cheaply in the magistrate's court rather than the crown court, and had too many cases thrown out by judges. The report found the highest rates of discontinuation were for the serious charges of violence against the person and criminal damage, and the lowest for motoring offences. "This is clearly a mstter for concero, the

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Fighting has broken out among VIPs invited to participate in the solemn pomp and grandeur of Russia's first royal funeral in more than a century.
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Sport
Warwickshire imposed a £2,000 fine on their captain Brian Lara – the heaviest in the club's history – after he missed Sunday's Aviva League game at Taunton.
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"More bodies found behind bank till."

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Sketch

And now to matters of state

Simon Hoggart

I OFTEN whine about how the Commons is generally three weeks behind the news. But when it's thrustingly up to date, it can be even more embarrassing.

Yesterday MPs addressed the most prominent stories in the papers — Gazza's sacking from the World Cup squad, and the departure of Ginger Spice.

What happens is that they go into a self-conscious, aren't-we-daring, gosh, us MPs are human beings really, mode. Anne McIntosh (C, Vale of York) used a question about how sport can "combat social exclusion" to ask the Sports Minister, Tony Banks, what he thought about the exclusion of Paul Gascoigne.

Mr Banks, no doubt conscious that if he makes another splashy mistake he will be blamed for any Tunisia 5, England 0 scoreline, went all statesmanlike. His demeanour would have been appropriate for the subsequent statement, on Indian and Pakistani nuclear weapons.

It was, he said sombrely, "a matter of great national concern". Gleno Hoddle was to be congratulated on his "brave" decision, "and I suspect that the England team will do even better . . . without Gazza."

Moments later, Gareth R. Thomas (Lab, Harrow W), was on his feet begging ministers to join him in asking Geri Halliwell to "think again" about leaving.

(This is the kind of "I'm really one of the lads" questions that makes my teeth curl. Most Spice Girls fans decamped to All Saints around four months ago, leaving the senior group as a well-loved but largely irrelevant national monument, like the Tower of London. Or the Dome.)

Tom Clarke, who turns out unexpectedly to be Minister for the Spice Girls, ran through a long list of the occasions when he had met the impish soubrettes. (I wonder if they can recall every time they met Tom Clarke?)

He too took a measured stance. "I am sure this is a little local difficulty, which they are perfectly capable of sorting out," he said, echoing Mr Blair's neo-libertarian view that government governs best when it governs least. Harold Wilson would have set up a royal commission, or at least had the girls round to Downing Street for round-the-clock talks with beer and sandwiches.

Soon afterwards, Peter Mandelson made a quite extraordinary remark. For months now he has been banging on about a game called "Surfball — the game for the 21st Century" which will be featured in his Dome.

It now turns out that there is no such pastime. No rules, no players, no commentators, no equipment, not even a pathetic Gazza figure trying to drink lager underwater.

Richard Spring, a Tory frontbencher, asked if this "fabricated non-existent game" was not "complete and utter surfballs".

The Minister without Portfolio (who was, as usual, clutching his portfolio marked Minister without Portfolio) does what he always does when caught out. He sneers. "The reshuffle beckons," he snarled at Mr Spring, before going on to say that "the Serious Games Zone will include the sort of 21st Century games for which the term 'Surfball' was an illustrative title."

What a magnificent get-out! Conmen would say: "The £100,000 I mentioned was merely an illustrative figure demonstrating the kind of sum I would hope to have paid you."

"The Eldorado Mine does not, of itself, exist, but allows you to conceptualise the sort of gold-mining enterprise you might wish to invest in."

A colleague was in Notting Hill this past weekend, and spotted Mandelson in his Cool Britannia casual gear of white T-shirt, navy shorts, dark glasses and a little black backpack, like a 16-year-old girl off clubbing. With his high forehead, and Quentin Tarantino, "Mr Pink", brushed back hair, she said it made one of the most terrifying sights she had encountered.

Review

Flamenco proves it's back in style

Robin Denselow

Juan Martin and Musica Alhambra
Queen Elizabeth Hall

FLAMENCO is beck in fashion, and rightly so. It is, after all, one of the great enduring musical styles of Europe, as resilient as the blues, and equally varied in its different forms and the still-developing fusions that have evolved from it.

It first emerged in southern Spain 500 years ago, after Indian and Arabic styles that had been moved west and north by gypsy migrations of Moorish invasions, became intertwined with local styles and Jewish culture. From this unlikely melting pot there developed music and dance styles that were remarkable for their emotional intensity quite as much as their history.

Then came rock'n'roll, flamenco lost its mass appeal for Spanish youth, and there seemed a real danger that the music night lose its soul as it became a novelty for the tourist market. Now, with the nuevo flamenco revival, the music is back with a vengeance, and io a whole variety of forms.

There are those who are creating new music after retracing the history of flamenco and its early links with Asian, Arabic and North African styles. The acoustic Spanish band Radio Tariff have shown some of the possibilities, while even the Britisb Asian club hero, Nitan Sawhney, himself an impressive flamenco guitarist, fuses flamenco with Indian styles in bis current experimental work.

All of those would have made welcome additions to the five-concert Arte Flamenco celebration of the new Spanish musical renaissance, on the South Bank.

The opening artist was Juan Martin, a one-time student of Paco de Lucia, whose mixture of new composition and historical works is very mocb in the tradition of Radio Tarifa. His instrumental line-up showed what one should expect.

Playing to a packed QEH, he perched on s stool, cradling his guitar, surrounded by his singer Abdul Saleem Kheir, playing the ancient Arabic lute, the oud, a percussionist playing hand drums and the Indian tablas, and flute and clarinet players.

Their repertoire veered between the ancient and modern, from Sephardic songs from the 13th century through to self-composed pieces in which delicate guitar solos were matcbed sgainst repeated clarinet phrases.

Then there were sections that veered towards jazz improvisation, sections where the guitar and oud swopped solos as they built up an almost bluesy riff, and sections in whicb the influences veered more directly to the Arab work, as with the treatment of a song by Lebanoo's legendary singer Fairuz.

This was virtuoso playing, for sure, but with a difference. Intensity and emotion were there, in patcbes, but Juan Martin's skill was in creating unexpected textures and colours within the flamenco setting.

There were a few wild guitar flurries but much of the playing was thoughtful, stately and mesmeric — though the final work-out against more frantic tabla and oud showed that this "new flamenco" still has the old passion and energy.

Documents show advisers top priority was to prevent 'alarmist publicity that could do much harm'

Officials feared BSE panic

James Meikle

MINISTERS were advised 11 years ago to take a low-key approach in publicity about BSE — then a new disease — so as not to provoke hysterical demands for draconian Government measures and international bans on British beef, according to previously classified official documents.

Internal memos and minutes from the summer of 1987, released to the BSE inquiry by the Ministry of Agriculture, reveal that civil servants and veterinarians believed it would be "inappropriate and premature" to impose restrictions on cattle herds. They were concerned about worrying people over health risks although "there is no reason at all to believe such risks exist".

But ministers said establishing whether there was a risk was of the highest priority. It was another year before restrictions were placed on animal feed and movement of infected cattle, two before all cattle offals were removed from the human food chain and nine before the Government conceded a possible link between BSE and human disease.

Eleven years later, "human BSE" is so far thought to have claimed 25 lives, BSE has been identified in well over 170,000 cattle, millions more have been slaughtered, and there is a world-wide ban on British beef exports, although Northern Ireland has just been exempted. The crisis has cost taxpayers nearly $4 billion.

Ministers were informed of the disease in cattle in June 1987, seven months after Government vets identified it, although cases occurred at least as early as April 1985.

Ray Bradley, a pathologist at the Central Veterinary Laboratory, Weybridge, advised in June there should be publication of findings on BSE "subject to the political implications being acceptable". The discovery should bring "deserved prestige" to the ministry, its advisory services and vets. A minute of a meeting later that month reveals that Dr Howard Rees, then the chief veterinary officer, warned the Permanent Secretary at the ministry, Sir Michael Franklin, that he was "primarily concerned with the public representation of our response to the disorder ... Irresponsible , alarmist publicity could do much harm. It might also jeopardise our export trade."

Sir Michael, who retired in October that year, thought the best way to proceed would be a low-key, scientific speech to the Britisb Cattle Veterinary Association, a short factual report to the Veterinary Record research journal, and investigations into possible links with human diseases. Ministers should acknowledge the new disease and explain there was no cause for alarm.

In July a memo to ministers from the head of the ministry's Animal Health Division, John Suich, advocated a "careful approach", as "ill-informed publicity could lead to hysterical demands for immediate draconian Government measures." This could alarm other countries into banning British cattle, semen and embryos. There should be no restrictions on herds in the absence of knowledge about BSE and "a definitive test in the live host". There is still no such test.

Dr William Watson, director of the Weybridge laboratory, said in July 1987 that it would take four to five years to establish wbether BSE could be treosmitted to humans.

In records of one meeting, Donald Thompson MP, then a junior agriculture minister, suggested research might find the disease " 'acceptable' in terms of its economic impact". If an export risk was found, "we should consider asking the industry for funds".

Sir Michael told the inquiry yesterday: "I think it is very understandable that wben you have a new phenomenon about which you know so little there is a danger that it can be misunderstood and misinterpreted."

Susie Maroney, with the cage designed to protect her from sharks, sets off from the Mexican island of Isla Mujeres at the start of her apic swim to Cuba PHOTOGRAPH: CLAUDIO CRUZ

Lady in a cage sees off sharks to finish epic swim

Tom Gibb in Havana

AFTER a swim through shark-infested waters which lasted two nights and a day, marathon swimmer Snsie Marouey waded ashore at dawn yesterday with nothing worse than a swollen throat. Her 128-mila epic from Mexico to Cuba set a new wnrld record in unassisted ocean swimming.

To keep off the sharks and the larger jellyfish, the 23-year-nld Anstralian swam in a cage towed behind a boat. Insida she had to wear a lycra skin suit to protect ber from tiny stinging jellyfish, which can cause painful skin rashes.

Sbe had originally planned to swim another 17 miles around the Cuban coast to Maria La Gorda. But at the last minnte she decided to make for the western point of the island. However, Cuban authorities told her to keep going a few more miles to the first small beach at Las Tumbas.

After she she half-walked, half-crawled ashore, she said: "I am all sore now. But it is just the best feeling when yon hit land. I've been training for it and I love the challenge."

Throughout the swim, her mother and two brothers gave her encouragement frnm snpport vessels.

Her brothers got into the water with her to swim the last stretch, when she had to abandon the cage to negotiate shallow reefs leading up to the beach.

The nrganisers had been worried as she approached land about the danger from sharks, which nften feed around tha reefs at night. Bnt there were no incidents.

Ms Maroney's endurance swims in the waters around Cnba have made her a national institution. Cuban radio has broadcast programmes about her, telling how in her early years she used swimming as part of a treatment against asthma. Cubans were told how she prepared for her latest exploit with a diet of baby foods, marshmallow and custard.

She first tried to swim from Havana to Florida two years ago, but had to be plucked from the sea, exhausted, a few miles short of her goal. Last year she repeated the attempt, this tine euccessfully, swimming 108 miles to Key West.

US-style district attorneys for revamped CPS

continued from page one

reasons for which must be investigated," it says. Likewise, the few statistics availsble showed downgrading of charges happened most often in cases of serious crime, public order offences and traffic accidents causing death.

More than half of all acquittals in crown court result from the judge throwing the case out or directing the jury to acquit. Though there were often good reasons, such as a witness failing to appear, "the statistic is a cause for concern," the report says, adding CPS performance "is not as good as it should be".

Sir Iain's team found that the 1993 reorganisation welded the service into a national body. "Nevertheless we believe that the price paid in the over-centralisation of management was too great. With the benefit of hindsight we conclode that, however good its intentions, the 1993 reorganisation was on balance a mistake."

A "teamworking" initiative set up by Dame Barbara caused "much resentment" among staff, and had oot resulted in more experienced lawyers spending more time on serious cases.

"We estimate that the top 400 lawyers in the CPS spend less than a third of their time on casework and advocacy. We think this is undesirable."

The inquiry was unable to assess whether the CPS was to blame for a fall in convictions, because statistics were contradictory: Court Service figures showed a decline in convictions between 1986 and 1995, CPS statistics showed the opposite. The report calls for one set of figures.

The chief executive will take over the bulk of the administrative work, leaving the next DPP to concentrate on prosecution and the legal process.

Some senior QCs have already being approached about the director's job, though the post will be filled by open competition. A Bar insider said Heather Hallett QC, the Bar's chairman, had been sounded out, but declined.

Mr Addison, aged 47, a career civil servant, will relinquish his current job as director of the Better Regulation Unit at tbe Cabinet Office, which he took up last September. He bas also worked at the Health and Safety Executive, the Employment Department and the Training Agency.

The Attorney General, John Morris, who commissioned the Glidewell report, said: "The Government accepts the main thrust of the report for reordering priorities to focus more on the core business of prosecuting, greater separation of management from legal work, greater autonomy for the areas and better prospects for the staff.

"The Government will publish a formal response to the recommendations, setting out our response to each recommendation, whether it will be implemented, and if so, how." The report was welcomed by the Bar and the Law Society.

Main points

☐ Chief crown prosecutors for each area in the style of US district attorneys, "people of stature in the local community" accountable for decisions and on a level with judges and chief constables, with as much freedom as possible to run their areas in their own way

☐ A less centralised management structure

☐ A new chief executive to take over the administrative function, leaving the Director of Public Prosecutions to concentrate on the legal function

☐ Staff released from the burden of management and excessive paper-pushing, and allowed to get on with prosecuting as the priority

☐ Headquarters role limited to setting the national framework, supervising resources and monitoring the areas

☐ For central casework (which deals with the most serious cases) external recruitment, more staff, better training and improved casework audit

☐ Takeover of the prosecution process by CPS immediately after charge laid; arranging the initial bearing in magistrate's court; seeing to availability, warning and care of witnesses

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Letters reveal scientist's compromising passion

The letters are 'the most significant' since those to his wife Mileva, here with Einstein in 1911

Evidence released in Russia has shown that the father of modern physics had a long relationship with a Soviet agent who was trying to extract nuclear secrets while the US was developing the atom bomb. **Martin Kettle** reports

Albert Einstein with his lover Margarita Konenkova. Einstein's autograph reads: 'sincere regards'

Einstein's affair with a spy from Moscow

THE "father of modern physics", Albert Einstein, had a lova affair with a Soviet spy at a time when his theories were belping to prodnca tbe weapons wbich were dropped on Japan at the end of the second world war, newly discovered documents suggest.

The revelation of the affair between Einstein and the Soviet agent Margarita Konenkova comes from nine of the great scientist's apparently genuine love letters, written in 1945 and 1946. Tbe letters, whicb bave until now been in the possession of Konenkova's family in Russia, are to be auctioned in New York by Sotheby's this month.

Paul Needham of Sotheby's says the authenticity of the letters was "immediately apparent" and the handwriting and stationery are genuine. In the sale catalogue, Mr Needham says the letters are "the most significant discovery with regard to Einstein's personal and emotional life since his early letters to his first wife, Mileva, came to light in 1987".

Einstein and Konenkova met in the 1930s in the United States, where he was a refugee from Nazi Germany and she was an emigré from tbe Soviet Union. It is not clear wben they became lovers, but by the time that the letters were written, npon Konenkova's return to the Soviet Union in 1945, tbeir relationship was clearly a passionate one.

In some of the letters, which are written in German, Einstein talks about the "Nest" wbere the two used to meet in Princeton, New Jersey. He also uses the pet name "Almar" — a combination of Albert and Margarita — to describe their joint possessions. In one letter, Einstein writes "the Nest . . . sends yon its best greetings" and later he writes "Be kissed by your A. Einstein".

In another letter he writes "Jnst recently I washed my head by myself, but not with tha greatest success; I am not as careful as you are. Everything here reminds me of you: Almar's blanket, the dictionaries, that wonderful pipe that we thought was dead, and all the other little thinga in my cell; and also the lonely Nest."

Einstein was 66 when the letters to Konenkova were written. By this time be was a widower, following the death of his second wife Elsa in 1936. It is not clear how long their correspondence continued, and it is unlikely that they met again after Konenkova's departure from the US in 1945. Einstein died in April 1955 at the age of 76.

Konenkova was in her mid-40s when the letters were written. From the early 1920s she lived in the US with her husband, the sculptor Sergei Konenkov, whose work inclndes a bronze bnst of Einstein which is still at Princeton University. She had met Einstein by at least 1935.

.Bnt she was also a Soviet agent with the code-name "Lucas". In his 1995 memoirs, the head of the Soviet atomic espionage programme in the US during the second world war, Pavel Sndoplatov, wrote that "our veteran agent Margareta Konenkova" had the task of obtaining information and influencing Robert Oppenheimer and other prominent scientists wbom she met at Princeton. When the Konenkovs returned to Russia in December 1945 they were "granted special privileges by a government enactment in reward for their services to the Soviet Union", Sndoplatov claimed. Konenkova died in Russia in 1982.

Einstein himself had no direct involvement in the Manhattan Project, the top-secret atom bomb project centred at Los Alamos in New Mexico. Bnt be had written to President Roosevelt in August 1939 suggesting that it might be desirable to develop an atomic bomb to rival German research in the field and be was widely regarded in the public mind as the presiding genius of the researcb.

A week after the dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan, Konenkova visited Einstein, wbo was on boliday in New York state, and asked bim to meet tbe Soviet vice-consul in New York, Pavel Mikhailov, wbo was in fact her controller. Einstein agreed and a number of meetings and conversations took place.

The letters sbow that Mikhailov helped Einstein to draft a telegram whicb was sent, in his name, to the Soviet Academy of Science expressing concern about the dangers for world stability and peace in the new nuclear age.

Albongh Einstein had for a long time sbared the widespread view of the time that Stalin's Russia was a benign influence, be wrote in his June 1946 reply to Konenkova's description of the Moscow May Day parade: "I watch with concern these exaggerated patriotic feelings."

Nazi war loot 'under-estimated'

US historians claim new evidence about Jewish gold in Swiss banks

Martin Kettle in Washington

TWICE as much gold was looted from Jews and other victims of the Nazis as previously thought, a US government report will say today — and most of the Nazi gold reserve was routed through Swiss banks to other neutral nations to buy supplies for Hitler's army in tha closing months of the second world war.

The report says thet the so-called Melmer Account — named after an SS officer who administered it — contained $40 million (£24 million) wortb of gold at today's prices, not $20 million as previously believed.

The Melmer account contained gold bars mada from the wedding rings, tooth fillings and other personal effects of concentration camp victims.

In another finding, the report will say that the Third Reich used roughly $300 million in stolen bullion — worth $2.6 billion (£1.6 billion) in today's prices — to pay Argentina, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Turkey for war supplies, including the raw materials to make machine tools and armaments.

The report says that three-quarters of this amount was transferred from Germany through the Swiss National Bank.

The report, which has been prepared by US government historians in the State Department, is bound to rekindle the argument about who should bear the blame for the outcome of wartime transactions involving gold and other valnables seized by the Nazis.

Even before its publication, the report has set off another round of arguments between those mainly representing the families of holocaust survivors, who want to pin the central responsibility on the Swiss, and those who say that other neutral nations as well as Switzerland must share some of the responsibility.

Jewish groups that are currently engaged in legal battles for compensation from the Swiss government and the country's three main banks say they are worried that the State Department is trying to "appease Switzerland" by seeking to spread the guilt to other neutral countries.

Whatever the motivations involved, the report is certain to trigger a reaction in each of tha other neutral countries whose involvement in the deals is charted in the report. Turkey's gold reserves, for examples, went from 27 tonnes before the war to 216 tonnes afterwards, largely as a result of trading with Nazi Germany.

> 'Why was there so little co-operation with the Allies over looted assets?'

"If neutrality was defended during the war as a way of self-defence," the report says, "why was there so little co-operation with the Allies after the war in returning looted Nazi assets?"

At the end of the war less than $20 million of the $240 million in looted gold and metals was returned by the non-Swiss neutrals.

Switzerland returned $58 million of the deposits transferred from Germany, instead of the $300 million which the historians believe it received from the Nazi regime.

Swiss officials are expected to welcome the report, the title of which — US and Allied Wartime and Postwar Negotiations with Argentina, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Turkey on Looted Gold and German External Assets — strongly suggests the change of focus in the investigations.

The report says that some other neutral countries, notably Sweden, fulfilled their post-war agreements to pay back money earned from the Third Reich.

However, it stops short of proposing that present-day former neutral states such as Switzerland should pay back all such assets now.

In Switzerland's case, such a move would involve billions of dollars in settlements.

2m soft drink cans in poison scare

Jamie Wilson

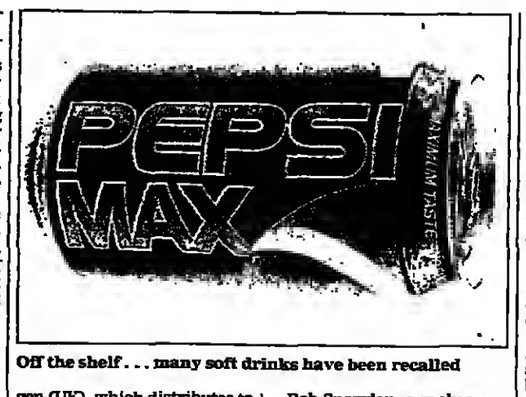
MILLIONS of bottles and cans of potentially contaminated soft drinks were yesterday being removed from sbops after traces of a cancer-causing poison were found in carbon dioxide supplies used to make the drinks.

More than 2.25 million cans of Tango, Seven-Up, Coca-Cola, Sprite and Fanta, as well as thousands of bottles of Malvern and Brecon Carreg carbonated water, were being recalled by manufacturers after tests found traces of the chemical benzene.

However, the soft drinks industry was last night trying to play down any health risk, emphasising that the drinks were being removed for quality control rather than health reasons.

The scare was sparked on Friday after some samples of carbonated water were found to contain up to 20 parts of benzene in one million — twice the World Health Organisation guidelines.

Tbe contamination bas been linked to liquid carbon dioxide made by Terra Nitrogen (UK), which distributes to a large number of soft drinks manufacturers.



Off the shelf . . . many soft drinks have been recalled

The British Soft Drinks Associatioo said suspicion over the quality of the stocks were highlighted by a mineral water company following routine testing. The firm told its supplier, Messer UK, but it took two weeks for the problem to be narrowed down because Messer receives carbon dioxide from several sources.

Bob Snowdon, a spokesman for Terra Nitrogen, said yesterday: "There is a negligible risk to the public. We have launched a comprehensive inquiry to establisb the cause of the problem."

The company believed the trace levels of benzene were linked to carbon dioxide production at the company's plant at Severnside.

A spokeswoman for Britvic said the company estimated that two days of production had been affected. Specific batcbes had been identified as potential problems and these were being targeted in the recall.

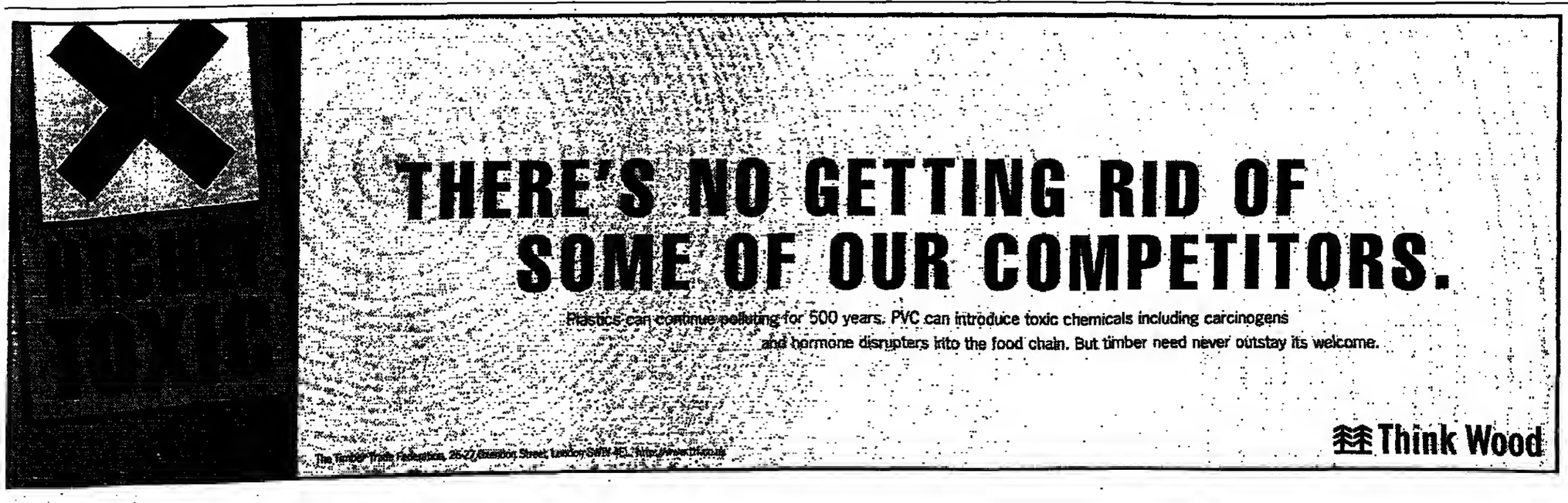
A spokeswoman for Coca-Cola-Schweppes said it was taking action after establishing that the suspect carbon dioxide had been used in its Malvern water factory. The company was also freezing stocks at some of its secondary factories until full analysis had been undertaken.

The spokeswoman said the problem had only affected a small proportion of its total output.

The other carbonated water involved, Brecon Carreg, is sold both as an individual brand and as an own-label water in stores, including Boots, Tesco, Safeway and Waitrose. It was pulled after tests also proved positive.

A spokewoman for the British Soft Drinks Association said yesterday that a number of other manufacturers were carrying out tests on their products.

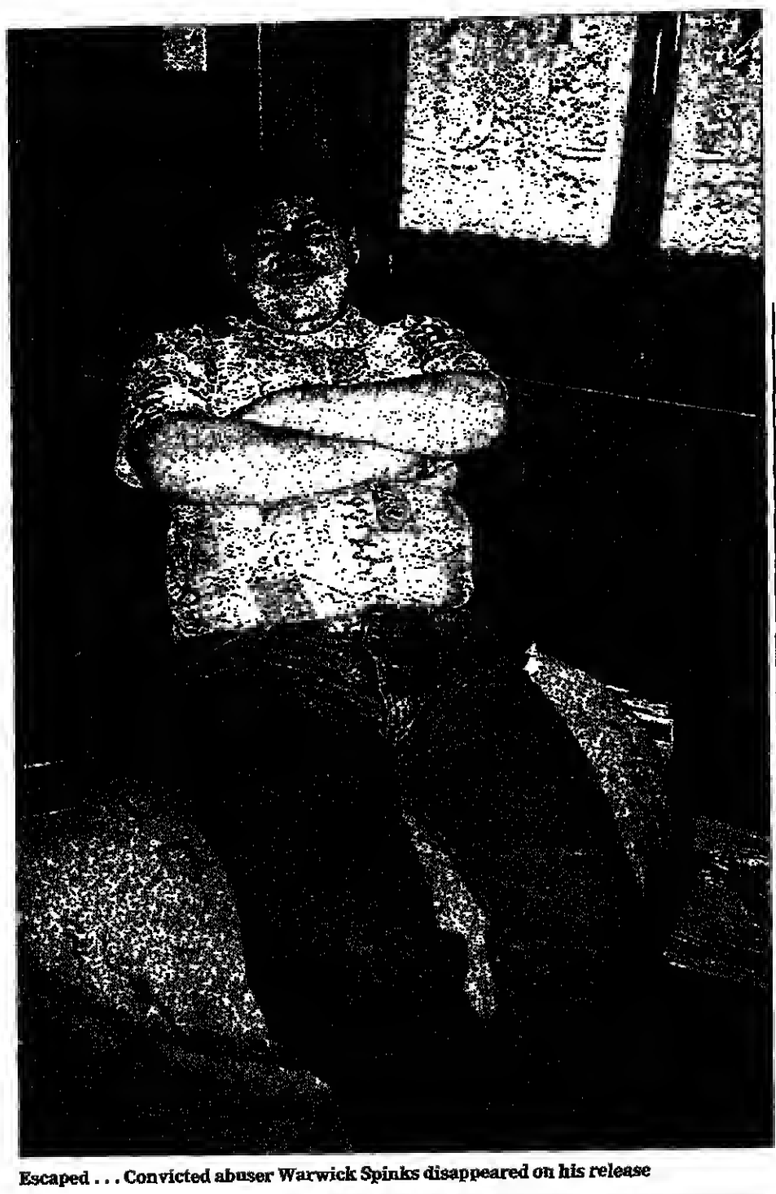
The scare is believed to bave caused widespread panic within the soft drinks industry, whicb has an annual turnover of over £6 billioo.



The most secret crime

The NSPCC reports that 70 per cent of paedophiles are closely related to their victim — and, contrary to popular belief, they were not always men

The epidemic in our midst



Escaped . . . Convicted abuser Warwick Spinks disappeared on his release

Child abuse has only recently crept into the nation's consciousness. In the first part of a four-day special investigation, **Nick Davies** establishes the nature of paedophilia

The most secret crime

IN NOVEMBER last year, every newspaper in Britain carried the story of how Scotland Yard had worked with *police forces* around the country to raid the rooms of teachers at private schools in search of evidence of their involvement in a paedophile ring. The more interesting story, however, was one raid *which never* happened.

In the weeks before the operation, specialist detectives from the Paedophile Unit at Scotland Yard had discussed with Thames Valley the possibility of raiding a teacher at *the most prestigious* private school in the country — Eton College.

The move started after a teacher who had recently left Eton went to Thames Valley police and claimed that one of his colleagues had been indecently assaulting boys at the school. Detectives discovered that the suspect had been the target of similar allegations in the past; and that police in Yorkshire had seized a collection of child pornography and found letters from the teacher in which he referred to "sending the happy items".

Clearly, this did not amount to proof that the teacher was guilty. His former colleague may have had a grudge against him; the letters in Yorkshire may have had some innocent explanation; other witnesses, who also suspected him, may simply have been mistaken. But the other raids in the series were being planned on the basis of similar intelligence, *which Scotland Yard believed* was strong enough to demand that suspects be interviewed and *their property* searched. Yet when the raids took place Thames Valley held back in the Eton case, arguing that the evidence was too weak to justify action. The result: the truth about the suspected abuser was never found.

Earlier last year, the Guardian revealed the international police hunt for two unidentified men who had made the "Bjorn tape", a chilling video which recorded their relentless sexual assault on an adolescent Dutch boy who was carried in front of the camera, limp and hooded, before being strapped into a chair where he was defenceless against the indulgence of his two attackers.

Following the story, which was linked to an ITV documentary, Dutch police traced Bjorn's accent to an area in the north of Holland, where they combed through files of reported child abuse — and found him. It turned out that he had contacted the authorities a year earlier to complain that a Dutch man, whom he named, had been drugging and raping him since he was only three years old, most recently with the assistance of an English man. The Dutch man had been tried and — in the absence of the video — he had been acquitted.

Now, the tape not only proved that the boy had been telling the truth in all its grim detail, but it also confirmed the identity of the English man who had taken part. He is John Peters, a former soldier who went AWOL in the early 1970s after being charged with having sex with a 14-year-old boy in public toilets near his base in Sutton Coldfield. Since then, Peters has been convicted in Denmark of a separate offence of child abuse.

Although Bjorn's Dutch abuser has now been tried again in Holland and convicted, Peters remains at liberty. Just as he evaded the police in Sutton Coldfield in the 1970s, so now he has evaded them again in Holland, simply by crossing a border. The result: the abuser has escaped.

That same story in the Guardian also disclosed the activities of Warwick Spinks, e British paedophile then serving a sentence of five years for abducting and raping two homeless boys from the streets of London. He had sold one of them into a brothel in Amsterdam.

Spinks is a paedophile of grandiose ambition who ran an agency in Britain which sold boys to like-minded punters, and then by moved to Amsterdam where, as the Guardian disclosed, he worked in brothels and joined a group of British men who produced videos in which five boys were alleged to have been raped and murdered for the pleasure of viewers.

As he approached the end of his five-year sentence, Spinks was transferred from prison to a probation hostel in south London where, last September, he was asked to fill in a form so that the police could enter his details on the new register of sex offenders. Spinks, however, refused to fill in the form. He simply walked away from the hostel and sent his probation officer a postcard with an invitation to come and see him in Amsterdam. *The result: another* abuser has escaped.

The sexual abuse of children is a special crime, not simply because of the damage it does to victims, nor even because of the anger and fear it provokes in communities, but more particnlarly because it is so easy — easy to commit, easy to get away with.

It is physically easier for a rapist to overpower a child than an adult. In February of this year, police reported that a paedophile had boarded a train outside Brighton one evening and abducted not one, but three young boys, aged between eight and eleven. Police said that the man forced the three boys to get off in the village of Glynde, where he marched them into the public toilets and indecently assaulted all three of them before threatening to kill them, raping one of them and putting them all back on the train.

Police last week confirmed that the late MP Peter Morrison (left) had been picked up twice and never brought to trial. There appeared to be no trace of either incident in official records

Equally, it is easier to confuse a child than an adult. A woman who spent four years from the age of seven being raped regularly by her stepfather, told the Guardian she had never thought to complain: "I thought it was normal, I thought everyone was going home from school and being hurt by their dad." Children have emerged from abuse to report variously that there was no point in telling because no one would believe them and they would be put *into care*; or, commonly, *that* the abusive parent would be sent to prison, thus destroying the family and bringing hardship and misery to the other parent.

Children are conned by *their abusers in a way that no* adult would be. Bruce McLean, for example, who is serving nine years for indecent assaults in Cheshire, was using Manchester United tickets to entrap boys. A man who is now awaiting trial for producing a small orgy of child pornography videos in the north of England bought adolescent girls with Kentucky Fried Chicken and toffees, according to one who has spoken to the Guardian.

The ease of the crime is reflected in its scale. No one *knows the exact numbers, but* to construct a picture is to watch an arithmetical explosion. Start with a hard fact. At the last count, there were 2,100 child sex abusers behind the bars of British jails. Now think of all those who have previously been convicted but who have been released back into the community. You have to multiply by 50: according to the Home Office Research Department, there are 108,000 convicted paedophiles in the community.

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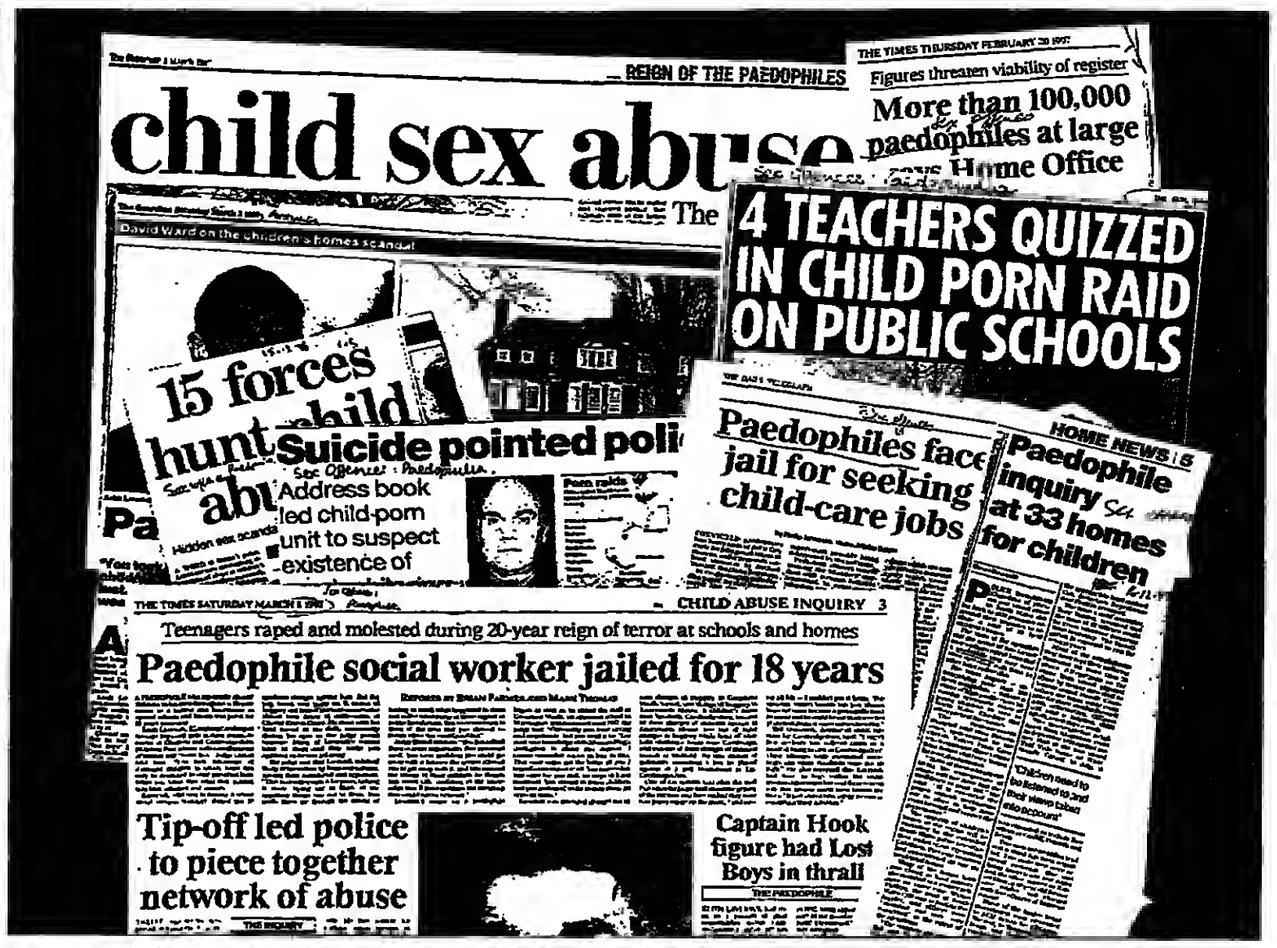
The most secret crime

There is clear evidence of some conspiracy, of the existence of paedophile rings, sometimes deliberately infiltrating parts of the child protection system

that went unnoticed



Convicted paedophiles (clockwise from top left) . . . Dennis Grain, Terence Hoskins, Keith Laverack, Alan Langshaw, John Clarke and Stephen Norris. Right, how the press began to uncover the conspiracies in care organisations

Now, think of all the child victims who are conned and confused and never report their abuse in the first place; and all those cases which are reported but which fall short of the demands of the courts; and all those cases of rape and indecent assault which are convicted but which are not statistically recorded as crimes against children. At the most conservative estimate, the NSPCC and specialist police agree with studies here and in the US, that the official figures for convictions record no more than 10 per cent of the paedophile population. Which means that today in Britain, there are probably 1.1 million paedophiles at large. Other studies suggest that the figure is very much higher.

This vast scale appears to be confirmed by "prevalance studies" which take samples of the population and establish how many were childhood victims of sexual abuse. In the UK, the US, Germany, Switzerland and Australia, studies consistently find that around 20 per cent of women and around 8 per cent of men suffered sexual abuse as children. In the current population of UK children, that would cover 1.5 million girls and 520,000 boys, a figure that is consistent with the projection of 1.1 million offenders.

Child sex abuse is not only easy to commit, it is also easy to get away with. It is the least reported crime on the planet. Numerous victims say that they were silenced by their own emotions — the same emotions which gag the adult victims of rape, but which are magnified in a child's mind. Some children simply cannot report it: social workers in East Sussex four years ago found paedophiles deliberately targeting children who were too disabled to give evidence. Others had picked children who were terminally ill and who died before the system could catch up with them.

Those children who do report what has happened to them are uniquely likely to find their stories rejected. Often, like the adult victims of indecent assault, they will have nothing but their own word as evidence. And the word of a child is viewed with suspicion from one end of the criminal justice system to the other. It is for that reason that the tribunal of inquiry into abuse in children's homes in North Wales is only now attempting to get to the truth of hundreds of complaints which were first made by children up to 20 years ago — to council officials, doctors, social workers and parents who, almost without exception, believed not a word of it.

North Wales is only the beginning. It is now clear that during the last 30 years, children's homes in Britain suffered an epidemic of rape and violent assault. It was an epidemic that went unnoticed.

There are now thousands of men and women, in North Wales, South Wales, Manchester, Liverpool, Sunderland, Northumbria, Edinburgh — in 17 different police areas — who have come forward to make detailed, credible allegations about their childhoods of abuse in care. And yet, at the time, just about all of them were overlooked by just about every agency that was supposed to protect them — the police, social workers, the Social Services Inspectorate, health visitors, doctors.

The passage of time, itself, often allows abusers to escape. In Cardiff, Paul Conibeer, who is now aged 28, is trying to persuade the police to prosecute three men for buggering him and passing him around their friends when he was a 13-year-old in care. The three men have since been convicted of paedophile offences and have become involved in the abuse of children in Portugal and Amsterdam, where they shared their pleasures with Warwick Spinks. Police in Cardiff, however, say Conibeer's story is too old to be proved.

The fact that the sexual abuse of children is so hidden is not entirely the result of the age its victims. This is also a crime of conspiracy, of the abuse of power and, from time to time, of incidents which suggest that a paedophile with prestige may be more likely to escape justice than a more humble offender.

Fleet Street routinely nurtures a crop of untold stories about powerful abusers who have evaded justice. One such is Peter Morrison, formerly the MP for Chester and the deputy chairman of the Conservative Party. Ten years ago, Chris House, the veteran crime reporter for the Sunday Mirror, twice received tip-offs from police officers who said that Morrison had been caught cottaging in public toilets with under-aged boys and had been released with a caution. A less powerful man, the officers complained, would have been charged with gross indecency or an offence against children.

At the time, Chris House confronted Morrison, who used libel laws to block publication of the story. Now, Morrison is dead and cannot sue. Police last week confirmed that he had been picked up twice and never brought to trial. They added that there appeared to be no trace of either incident in any of the official records.

A lot of paedophiles are loners. The NSPCC found that 70 per cent of them were closely related to their victim — and, contrary to popular belief, they were not always men. Dr Michelle Elliott from Kidscape says she has dealt with more than 700 cases of women sexually abusing children and that she takes on one or two new such cases each week.

Academics who have analysed the history of sexually abused children on the At Risk register have found that one in three were assaulted by adolescent or pre-adolescent children. The Young Abusers Project in London, has dealt with one abuser who was only seven years old.

Even though most abusers — whatever their age or sex — work alone, there is clear evidence of some conspiracy, of the existence of paedophile rings, sometimes deliberately infiltrating parts of the child protection system, often taking advantage of each other's political or social power to conceal their activities.

Researchers at Manchester University trawled the records of eight police areas in search of cases of organised abuse and they concluded that nationally they would expect to find 242 cases every year where children were the victims of adults who had colluded together to use them for sex. They noted, in line with other specialist researchers, that these official records probably captured only one tenth of the truth. It is these cases of organised abuse which present some of the most frightening incidents.

Some are never brought to trial — like the group of men who were believed by police to be abducting homeless girls from the streets of London in the early 1990s and holding them in a converted garage with padded walls, where they were being abused and finally killed. The closest they came to being caught was when the man who was said to be disposing of the girls' bodies, for £2,000 a time, was identified by Number Eight Regional Crime Squad, in Wales, as an ex-convict, a man with a history of spectacular violence who was living in Cardiff. Police investigated him but were unable to identify those who had hired him or to find evidence to charge him.

Others come to trial only partially — like Robert Oliver and Sidney Cooke and their friends who together abducted, drugged, raped and killed Jason Swift, Barry Lewis and Mark Tildesley. They were convicted of manslaughter. Investigating officers were frustrated, first because there was insufficient evidence to convict them of murder and, second, because they were never able to bring any charges at all in relation to six other boys who, they believed, had also died at the hands of the same ring.

Often the links between abusers lie beneath the surface of less horrific conspiracies. Take, for example, the case of Greystone Heath, an approved school for boys in Warrington, which for years enjoyed an unsullied reputation until police finally discovered that it had become a hot spot for paedophiles.

It appears to have started in 1965 when a 21-year-old student teacher named Keith Laverack went to work there. Over the ensuing four years, he raped at least 16 boys, three of whom he shared with his colleague, Brian Percival, the clerk and storeman at the home. Once these two men had established sexual rights over the boys at Greystone, other abusers joined the staff: Alan Langshaw, who raped at least 24 boys; Dennis Grain who raped at least 18; Roy Shuttleworth who raped at least 10; Jack Bennett who indecently assaulted two; and Steve Norris who assaulted an unknown number.

The Greystone abusers then fanned out. Keith Laverack went to childrens' homes in Cambridgeshire; Alan Langshaw became Principal of St Vincent's Catholic boys' home in Formby; Grain and Shuttleworth were both promoted to other homes in the Warrington area; Steve Norris went to North Wales. At their new homes, all of them continued to rape boys who were in their care and wherever they went, they crossed the paths of other paedophiles.

In Cambridgeshire, Keith Laverack worked with numerous colleagues, four of whom are now also suspected of abusing children. Dennis Grain worked in Doncaster for the same group of private schools as Terence Hoskins who went on to become headteacher of St Aiden's Community Home in Widnes, where he liked to thrash naked boys with a cane, which he then pushed into their backsides, while his housemaster, Colin Dick, indecently assaulted those who caught his eye. Dennis Grain had previously attacked boys in Danesford childrens' home in Congleton, opening the door to three others, John Clarke, Joseph Smith and Brian Hudson, who set about the boys with relish. Dennis Grain, in the meantime, went off to work at Eton, where he became a housemaster. The web is almost endless.

While he was Principal of St Vincent's, Alan Langshaw recruited a care worker named Edward Stanton, who joined in Langshaw's orgy. Stanton appears to have got the job through the good offices of Roy Shuttleworth, who was continuing to abuse the boys at Greystone and who is believed to have known Stanton from their time in Birmingham when they took the same course in residential child care.

That course in Birmingham, in turn, is believed to have been lectured by Peter Righton, a notorious paedophile who attempted to legitimise his obsession in a series of academic studies.

Righton, for his part, belonged to the Paedophile Information Exchange, along with Jack Bennett who joined in the abuse at Greystone. Righton had earlier worked in the same childrens' home in Maidstone, Kent as Peter Howarth, who went on to become a legendary abuser in the homes of North Wales where he shared his indulgence with Steve Norris, formerly of Greystone.

Each of these men claims to have abused alone. Even though their paths connected so frequently, even though the Greystone abusers were assaulting boys in buildings within yards of each other, even though several of them were raping the same boys, they claim never to have colluded with each other. No one who has been involved with investigating Greystone believes them. The evidence suggests that such abusers not only collude to give each other work and access to children, but also to infiltrate the child protection system. Peter Righton lectured not only in Birmingham but in numerous other colleges.

Before he was finally taken to court and convicted, he became a highly regarded consultant in child care and, eventually, the Director of Education at the prestigious National Institute of Social Work in London, a position from which he was able to have some influence on Government policy.

With similar cynicism, Keith Laverack, who opened the catalogue of abuse at Greystone Heath, went on to run the Guardian Ad Litem panel for Cambridgeshire County Council, with the job of representing the interests of children in court cases. This job not only introduced him to the most vulnerable children in the area but also gave him access to files on abused children all over the country. Terence Hoskins, who worked with some of the Greystone abusers, used connections with South Yorkshire police to get access to his own file, from the supposedly secret National Criminal Intelligence Service, NCIS.

Roger Saint, who spent years assaulting his foster children in Clwyd secured himself a job on the local adoption panel from which he could referee complaints about people like himself.

But this is only the beginning. Beyond the inherent difficulty of detecting and preventing this most secret crime, beyond the obstacle course of concealment erected by the collusion of clever paedophiles, the child victims of sexual abuse are betrayed by organisations who repeatedly prefer to avoid embarrassment by concealing awkward allegations and by a system of protection which simply does not work.

● *TOMORROW: The social services chief who fought organised abuse and lost*

Today in Britain there are probably 1.1 million paedophiles at large

The most secret crime

Child victims are betrayed by a system of protection which simply does not work

The most secret crime

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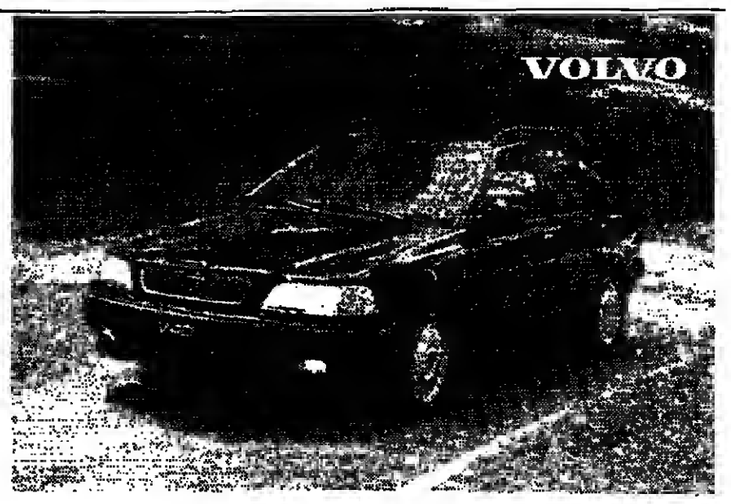

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In the wake of the damning Glidewell report, **Clare Dyer** reports on the fall in morale and efficiency at the centralised prosecution service

Ill-starred CPS became butt of jokes in court

THE CPS has been ill starred since its birth 12 years ago, when it was set up to separate the decision on whether to prosecute from the police investigative process. Up to that point, both functions had been carried out by police.

Critics of the service believe it got off on the wrong foot because the government chose to set up a nationalised, centralised service instead of the locally-based model recommended in 1981 by the *Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure* headed by Sir Cyril Phillips. That decision, with hindsight, was wrong, says the Glidewell report.

The reorganisation Labour announced when it took office last May will produce a service much closer to the model envisaged by the Phillips royal commission 17 years ago, with 42 locally based areas matching those of police forces.

Not only was the model wrong, but the service was introduced too hastily and with too few resources. The market for lawyers was booming and inevitably the CPS, with its relatively low salaries, could not fill its posts.

CPS lawyers, often inadequately prepared or with vital documents or witnesses missing, became the butt of gibes in courts. Problems were particularly severe in London, where legally qualified stipendiary magistrates were quick to criticise, landing the service with a severe image and morale problem.

> 'There was too much monitoring and not enough prosecuting'

Extra funds were pumped in, the market for lawyers eased, and the former director of public prosecutions, Sir Allan Green, was beginning to turn the service round when his career was cut short by an incident at King's Cross red light district in London, where he was spotted by police apparently kerb crawling, and resigned.

Barbara Mills, then running the Serious Fraud Office, took over. The service was reorganised, reducing the number of areas from 31 to 13. It was from this point, according to Neil Addison, a former senior crown prosecutor, that things went badly wrong. Mr Addison was pushed out of the service in 1994 after writing a critical article.

The areas were unwieldy, corresponding neither to regional crime squad areas or crown court circuits. One area stretched from Chester to Windsor and covered five police forces. Crown prosecutors were unable to forge links with senior police officers.

Dame Barbara's enthusiasm for management was such that she took over the chief executive as well as the DPP role. The service became swamped in a sea of bureaucracy. Lawyers complained that they spent most of their time filling in forms rather than prosecuting — the *reason for their existence*.

"Too much money was spent on being a government department," said Mr Addison. "There was too much checking and monitoring of work, and not enough frontline prosecuting."

Morale plummeted. In a survey two years ago, 75 per cent said they disliked the CPS as a workplace, 68 per cent were dissatisfied with their jobs and 89 per cent were critical of management.

The "unholy trinity" of Dame Barbara and her two senior managers made a fundamental mistake, said Mr Addison, now practising at the criminal Bar. "They fell for the myth that you could run the entire service, every detail of the service, from London.

"There is a feeling that there has not been strategic leadership. There hasn't been s year since the CPS was set up when there has not been a fundamental upheaval in its organisation."

The Glidewell report concludes that the CPS "has the potential to become a lively, successful and esteemed part of the criminal justice system". But "sadly, none of these adjectives applies to the eervice as a whole at present".

Dame Barbara Mills . . . 'Fell for the myth that yon could run the entire service from London' PHOTOGRAPH: GAVIN SMITH

And lo, the biblical sum did not add up

Nick Hopkins and Keith Devlin

WHEN the Bible Code was launched, even the most grudging cynics had to admit something astonishing was afoot. The book claimed to have discovered hidden messages within the scriptures which predicted major events in world history.

References to the second world war, the Gulf conflict, the assassination of JFK, and the resignation of Richard Nixon, had apparently been found in the Old Testament.

The book became a bestseller on both sides of the Atlantic, and tabloid newspapers fought for the serialisation rights. The code had been discovered by academics and unravelled by computers, so it had to be right, didn't it? Apparently not.

In fact, it is probably bunkum. According to a new study, the first serious analysis of the book since it was launched last year, the code which unlocked the Bible's secrets has no validity.

Three researchers have discovered that the code-breaking technique called Equal Letter Skip could be applied to any lengthy book with the same results. The amazing revelations are no more than coincidences they say — and to prove the point they have used Moby Dick to "predict" the assassination of Leon Trotsky.

Initially, Maya Bar-Hillel, Dror Bar-Natan and Brendan McKay — all respected mathematicians — began scrutinizing the book with an open mind. They studied the theory behind it, and then tested it.

The "messages" in the Bible had been found by Equal Letter Skip which works by taking the letter of any word in a given script, then jumping forward a fixed number of letters to a second letter, and then a third, fourth etc, etc.

When Eliyahu Rips, an Israeli expert in quantum physics, applied ELS to the Hebrew version of the Bible, recognisable names and dates seemed to emerge.

Mr Drosnin, a journalist with the Washington Post, heard about the findings and began to investigate.

To begin with, he was sceptical but was won over when the name Yitchak Rabin appeared next to the word assassinate — a year before the Israeli prime minister was killed.

Although this seemed extraordinary, Bar-Hillel, Bar-Natan and McKay insist it was chance, rather than divine intervention.

They argue in their study, published in Chance, a periodical published by the American Statistical Association, that with a text as long as the books of the Old Testament — Genesis alone has 78,064 — you are bound to find words, or partial words using ELS.

Professor McKay, who lectures at the Australian National University, applied the system to Moby Dick and found it "predicted" the assassination of Mr Rabin, Martin Luther King and Trotsky.

The paper is also scornful of Mr Drosnin, quoting from an interview to Newsweek magazine in which he had stated: "When my critics find a message about the assassination of a prime minister in Moby Dick, I'll believe them."

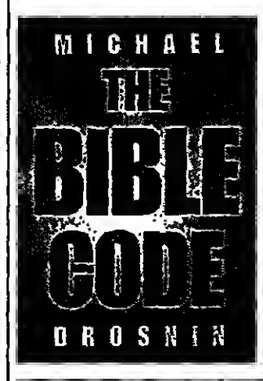
The study will come as a huge relief to the religious community, which was irritated by what it regarded as the trivialisation of the Bible. Jonathan Romain, a consultant of the Reform Synagogue of Great Britain, thought the book was "too preposterous for words", and would become "a handbook for would-be Mystic Meggs".

The study has also been welcomed by maths experts in the UK, who were reluctant to condemn the book until a proper examination had been completed.

Fred Piper, professor of cryptolgogy and security at the Royal Holloway college, London, said: "One always suspected the book was nonsense, and this seems to be the proof. I don't doubt Mr Drosnin's sincerity. I think he genuinely believes there is a secret code hidden in the Bible."

But the study has not been welcomed by Weidenfeld and Nicolson which publishes the book in the UK. A spokesman said: "Some experts say one thing, and another lot of experts say another. I am sure there have been studies which back up the book's methodology."

The assassination of Kennedy . . . allegedly predicted in the Bible along with second world war and Nixon's resignation



How it works

THE method used to "decode" the Bible was developed by Eliyahu Rips and his colleague Doron Witzum.

To begin with, they searched Genesis using an Equal Letter Skip of 49 — where the letters picked out of the text and used to make words were 49 letters apart — but subsequently they changed the ELS time and again.

The mathematicians looked through the text horizontally, vertically, and in diagonals to try to find patterns.

They found them. In pockets of text, they uncovered names of famous rabbis.

Rips and Witzum did some control tests, hnt concluded the results could not be put down to chance. They wrote a controversial paper, published in the Statistical Science journal four years ago.

Michael Drosnin took up the and applied it to the scriptures, unravelling names and dates.

For the new study, Maya Bar-Hillel, Dror Bar-Natan and Brendan McKay took the names of rabbis, and searched for them using ELS in a Hebrew translation of War and Peace. They found them.

"The astonishing result from Genesis can be replicated," said their report.

The scientists argued that Rips and Witzum bad not properly applied their ELS to other narratives.

They concluded: "Single words can be found not only in Genesis, but in any other sufficiently long text."

Nick Hopkins and Keith Devlin

The killing of Tolstoy . . . 'found' in the pages of Moby Dick using the same system of jumping a fixed number of letters

Firemen find body of girl, 12

POLICE were last night hunting the killer of a 12-year-old girl who set fire to her body after abducting and murdering her.

The remains of Lauren Carhart were found on wasteland behind a garage in Crumpsall, Manchester.

Detectives believe she may have been kidnapped as she walked home from a nearby tram stop after a day out in the city centre.

Police were interviewing a man in connection with the murder but he had not been arrested. They had also spoken to a friend of the dead girl's who had been due to accompany her home.

A post mortem examination was held yesterday but the results were not released.

It is understood the body was so badly burned that formal identification would only be possible through dental records but neighbours named Lauren as the victim.

A neighbour, Carol Power, said: "It's difficult for me to talk about it because I knew her quite well and I'm grieving for her. I think it's terrible because she was such a lovely little girl. My grandson was often out playing with her. The family are absolutely devastated."

Another neigbbour said: "You used to see her around quite a lot. She had a 16-year-old boyfriend, but I think they may have split up quite recently.

"She was popular with the other kids and was never in any trouble.

"I've got kids myself and when I heard how it might have happened, on the way back from the tram, I thought there but for the grace of God. I'm sure her mum, Jill, will be in pieces."

Lauren, who was a pupil at nearby Abraham Moss high school, was reported missing early yesterday when she failed to return home from a trip into central Manchester.

Four hours earlier, at 9pm, the fire brigade were called to a fire on wasteland which at first they thought was blazing rubbish. It is understood police found clothing and jewellery belonging to Lauren at the scene.

Yesterday flowers were laid outside the garage, MBM Motors, and it was sealed off as police forensic teams examined the wasteland behind.

A small piece of parkland next door and an embankment on the tram line which runs alongside were also painstakingly searched.

Dogs' dinner bites at quarantine laws

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

IT is being billed as the diplomatic event of the season, but one with unusual bite. Forget canapés and champagne and bring a bone, for the Czech ambassador is hosting a pet party.

The bash on June 21 has been arranged for Cutty, an 11-year-old grey schnauzer owned by envoy Pavel Seifter, coming home after six lonely months in quarantine.

Joining the chaps in pinstripes and their pets on the ambassador'a lawn in *Hampstead, north London*, will be the former Hong Kong governor, Chris Patten, a critic of the quarantine laws after leaving his Norfolk terriers, Whisky and Soda, in France rather than consigning them to six months in the kennels.

Czechs are working hard hnt diacreetly to prove their credentials for membership of Nato and the European Union, but they are making it clear that Britain's anti-rabies laws should go. "Obviously we cannot be political, but we do sympathise with all the poor animals that have to go through this ordeal," said press counsellor Zdena Gabalova, whose French hulldog, Eddie, is also celebrating his freedom.

Even the most anglophile of foreign envoys are exercised by the quarantine laws. Former American ambassador Ray Seitz once complained they were a "dog's breakfast".

Personal tragedies have brought breaches of protocol: Henrik Sorensen, a Danish attaché, called for change after the death of his daughter's pet spaniel in a West Sussex kennel.

Campaigners led by Lady Fretwell, wife of a former British ambaseador to France, say nearly 100 pets a year die separated from their owners and home comforts.

The Czech embassy points out that Cutty and Eddie will have no problems when they return home or in the transit countries of France and Germany, where pet passports and anti-rabies vaccination records are accepted.

"We have had some answere already from guests who are coming with their dogs," Ms Gabalova said last night. "But we don't yet know what breeds they are."

Soccer star bit man's head in row, court told

Ruaridh Nicoll

FOOTBALL star Vinnie Jones bit, punched and stamped on a neighbour in the Home Counties village of Redbourn, St Albans magistrates' court heard yesterday.

The footballer, who has played for Leeds, Chelsea and Wimbledon and is now assistant player-manager of QPR, allegedly attacked Timothy Gear in his mobile home after the 27-year-old tampered with a stile Mr Jones had built on a nearby public walkway.

"I opened the door, the first thing I saw was Vincent Jones's face," said Mr Gear. "He grabbed me by the shoulders and put his teeth into the top of my scalp."

Mr Jones denies the accusations. He pleaded not guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm and causing criminal damage to Mr Gear's caravan.

He told the court they had "thrashed around" on the floor after Mr Gear swore at him. "It was not a fight, it was more like a trial of strength. There were no punches thrown by either of us."

The footballer, who has lived since 1994 with his wife and two children in the house in Hertfordsbtre be and bis father built, spent November 11 last year shooting on another property. He told the court he had visited two pubs that night but had only had a glass of wine and half a Guinness because he was driving.

In the second pub he met his gardener, who he said was upset because Mr Gear, who runs a riding school next to Mr Jones' house, had removed a stile the footballer had built to stop fly-tipping.

At 11 o'clock, as Mr Jones made his way back to the house, he saw a light on in the mobile home where Mr Gear lived at the time, and decided to have a word. He banged on the door and then saw Mr Gear at the window, he said. "I just said to him, 'What's happening with my stile?' and he said 'Fuck your stile'. The next minute the door flies open and hits me on the shoulder."

Mr Gear then pulled ths door shut. Mr Jones tried to grab it and trapped his hand. "Then I went to the window and banged on the window, and it smashed," Mr Jones said. "I was annoyed."

Mr Gear said that after Mr Jones bit him on the head he forced his way in. "He entered the mobile home and struck me with a punch just on the bridge of my nose," said Mr Gear.

"He leant over me while I was on the floor, and this is when I smelt alcohol on his breath. At that moment, he punched me again. I was very dazed and frightened by it all. I was asking him to stop it all the time.

"He was giving me an occasional kick to the body and thighs . . . the abuse carried on language-wise and then he tried to stamp on my head. He managed to do that successfully three or four times."

Both agree that the fight was broken up by neighbour Pauline Baron who had just arrived home from work. "They were pushing and shoving each other," she told the court. "I said 'For f...'s sake stop it, you'll wake up my family'."

When they kept pushing each other she walked away and then, seeing her husband had woken up, returned. She pushed Mr Jones out.

Mr Gear then went to his parents' house, who called the police. Mr Jones was charged and kept overnight.

The case continues today.

Vinnie Jones pleaded not guilty in court yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

online
Every Thursday in the
The Guardian

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هكذا من الاصل

Reformist win in Montenegro puts Milosevic at risk

Jonathan Steele in Podgorica

SLOBODAN Milosevic has suffered a blow from voters in Montenegro that could destroy what remains of the Yugoslav Federation and prevent his re-election as its president.

They gave the reformist parties a big enough majority in Sunday's parliamentary elections to block constitutional changes and undercut Mr Milosevic's power.

Fears that he might refuse to accept the result and use the army to impose a state of emergency waned when his ally Momir Bulatovic, the head of the losing Socialist National Party, acknowledged defeat.

"These polls could not be considered either free or fair, because of the media blockade and police harassment, but the counting was in order and the party will accept the will of the people," Mr Bulatovic said.

His supporters, who tend to be elderly workers in now-closed state factories, sat glumly outside the party's headquarters after the polls closed, but as defeat sank in they drifted away without a fight. Montenegro's young president, Milo Djukanovic, had urged his supporters not to gloat and only a few fired victory shots into the air in the early hours.

A handful of cars drove round town with banners supporting his slogan "For a Better Life".

But off the streets the celebration was intense and in the police headquarters bottles of raki were being passed around as officers sang Montenegrin victory songs. Support from the police is a strong element in Mr Djukanovic's confidence in resisting pressures from Belgrade.

The Milosevic factor was a main campaign issue. Walls were plastered with posters showing his eyes and nose in close-up and the word "Enough".

Mr Djukanovic, who has won strong support internationally, says he wants to democratise Yugoslavia and make common cause with the pro-European parties in the Serbian opposition. He has threatened to leave Yugoslavia if reforms go on being blocked.

This would end the federation, since the other four republics left six years ago when Mr Milosevic started on his failed crusade for a "Greater Serbia".

Mr Djukanovic has been ambiguous on whether Montenegro will secede. He says he is against it, as long as there is a chance of the federation becoming a modern democracy with a full market economy.

"Do you want to live under the yoke of Milosevic and his wife as outcasts from the world or as a free and proud people in a reformed, democratic state," he asked at an election rally.

Montenagro, which has only 650,000 people compared with Serbia's 10 million, is dependent on Serbia for electricity, raw materials and food. But it has a stunning coastline and could benefit from tourism.

Mr Djukanovic's party had just under 50 per cent of the vote after 94 per cent of the ballots were counted, but it can rely on support for a clear majority from a handful of MPs representing the Albanian minority, and the Liberal Alliance, which favours full independence.

The result creates a new crisis for Mr Milosevic. He has been hoping to change the constitution to take control of Montenegro's police and give himself the right to a second term as president.

This now looks impossible. Under Yugoslavia's post-communist constitution, Montenegro has 20 seats, the same as Serbia, in the upper house of the federal assembly.

Having recently enticed the bardline and semi-fascist Serbian Radical Party into the Serbian government, Mr Milosevic controls some 15 of the Serbian seats.

He needed at least 12 from Montenegro for the two-thirds majority required to change the constitution. But Sunday's results barely give him the six extra he needs to pass legislation, which can be done by simple majority.

Mr Djukanovic's first move at the federal level may be to try to unseat Mr Bulatovic, the recently appointed federal prime minister. The Montenegrin government refuses to accept the move, which was made in the dying days of the last federal assembly.

He may also question Mr Milosevic's policy on Kosovo. Mr Djukanovic supports the idea of international mediation, rejected so far by Belgrade.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe applauded the integrity and lack of violence in the election, though it rebuked Mr Djukanovic for the way his party used state television and the main newspaper for one-sided news coverage and to denigrate the Bulatovic camp.

But it said that Serbian state media, which can be seen here, countered with equally biased coverage.

Communist who became a capitalist king

MILO DJUKANOVIC (above) became the world's youngest prime minister in 1991, aged 29. An economics graduate, he was then a member of the ruling Socialist Party — the former communists.

On the eve of Yugoslavia's disintegration he was a virulent nationalist, indistinguishable from Slobodan Milosevic.

During the Bosnian war Montenegro was a route for smuggling petrol and cigarettes to Serbia and Mr Djukanovic became wealthy by controlling the legal and illegal commerce.

But after three terms in office he saw Yugoslavia's economic plight and blamed Mr Milosevic's blocking reforms.

Attacking Mr Milosevic's xenophobia and his exploitation of the myth of Serbs as everyone's victim, he said: "We must turn tha criticism directed against us on to ourselves. We must sober up and awaken from our legends and dreams."

A supporter celebrates Milo Djukanovic's win in Sunday's poll PHOTOGRAPH: JOEL ROBINE

Tsar's burial faces royal Russian snub

Doubt about the authenticity of the remains may prompt a boycott, writes **James Meek** in Moscow

BICKERING among the key participants in Russia's first royal funeral for more than a century means that many important guests — including Boris Yeltsin — may not turn up.

The remains of Tsar Nicholas II, his family and their servants, executed in a cellar in Yekaterinburg by Bolsheviks in 1918, are due to be buried before a host of Russian dignitaries, European royals and Orthodox priests in St Petersburg's Peter and Paul cathedral on July 17.

But the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexy II, has said he may not be able to attend. He is under pressure from conservatives in the Church who refuse to believe that the exhaustive tests made on the remains — essentially bones — prove they are from members of the Romanov family.

A decision on the patriarch's involvement will be taken by the Orthodox synod next week, but Mr Yeltsin has suggested that he is unlikely to take part if Alexy is not there.

If the patriarch does not attend, it is not clear which members of the priesthood will conduct the ceremony, an elaborate ritual partly based on the last Russian royal burial, of Nicholas' father Alexander, in 1894.

Yesterday the self-styled head of the Russian royal house, Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna, said that she might not attend the funeral either. One of the main factors in her decision would be whether or not the patriarch and the president were there.

The grand duchess is a direct descendant of Nicholas' uncle Kirill Vladimirovich. Her son, Georgy, is seen as the most plausible — but by no means the only — pretender to the dormant Russian throne.

Her secretary, Alexander Zakatov, said that she was displeased with the guest list, which had been made "without any logic, with the use of fake titles and in violation of the family traditions".

There are rival claimants to the Romanov title and some monarchists cast doubt on Maria Vladimirovna's claim to head the royal house. They say that her father, Vladimir Kirillovich, the nephew of Nicholas II, made an unsuitable marriage to her mother Leonida Georgivna.

Tsars have to marry their own level of blue blood, or the marriage is declared "morganatic", thus disbarring their issue from a claim to the possessions or title of the father.

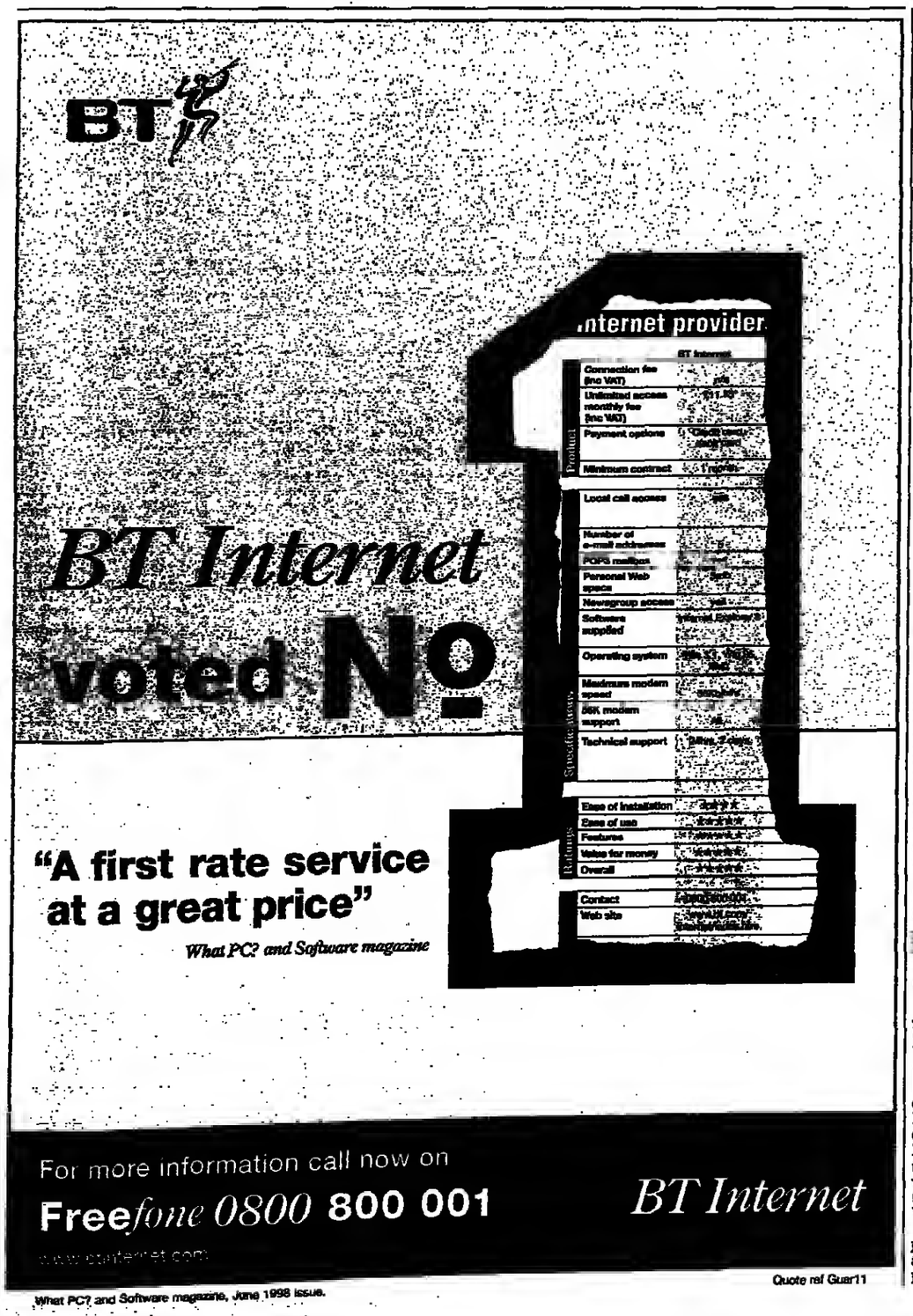
Leonida Georgievna's father was from a Georgian noble family, the Bagration-Mukhranski, a family with no rights to either the Russian or the Georgian throne.

The ghost of the last tsar began to haunt Mr Yeltsin before he became president. It was when he ruled Yekaterinburg — then known as Sverdlovsk — in communist times that the house where the Romanovs were shot was demolished to prevent it becoming a shrine. Before the burial site was chosen there was an unseemly row between the governors of St Petersburg, Moscow and Yekaterinburg for the right to have the tsar's last resting place.

It is understood that Russia intends to invite all Europe's monarchs to the funeral, including Queen Elizabeth.

But Prince Andrew said during a visit to the Peter and Paul Cathedral at the weekend that Buckingham Palace had not received a formal invitation and until it did no decision would be taken on who would attend.

Maria Vladimirovna: Unhappy about guest list



What PC? and Software magazine, June 1998 issue.

Revolution is no picnic for France's secretive, growing Trotskyist 'sect'

Jon Henley visits a fair in Presles where people use pseudonyms and punters at the shooting stand take potshots at politicians

IT IS just a country fair. Families stroll around munching candyfloss, crêpes or perhaps a lyonnaise sausage; merrymakers stretch out on the grass in front of the stage while a singer performs George Brassens numbers; others spend a couple of francs at the shooting stand.

Then you notice the signposts dotted around the grounds: Place Karl Marx, Allée du drapeau rouge, Place du prolétariat, Place octobre 1917.

And the stands: Workers' Liberty, Internationalist Perspective, Communist Revolutionary League, Bolshevik Tendency. Oh, and at the shooting stand and the darts booth you can take potshots at caricatures of the prime minister, Lionel Jospin, or spear the president, Jacques Chirac.

There are not many fists in the air at the annual fair of France's main revolutionary Trotskyist party, Lutte Ouvrière (Workers' Fight). People are mostly warm, friendly and helpful. But everyone wants, in the words of the programme, "not to reform this unjust and oppressive society, but to shatter it".

This is the fair's 28th year and the crowds are getting bigger. Organisers expected 30,000 people to travel to the Chateau de Presles, 40 minutes' north of Paris, at the weekend.

The happy mood reflects the party's growing electoral success: in the 1995 presidential election its most prominent member, Arlette Laguiller, won 5.3 per cent of the vote, while in March's regional polls it won nearly 5 per cent and captured 20 seats on regional councils.

They want 'not to reform this unjust and oppressive society, but to shatter it'. With electoral success comes suspicion

Its platform included raising corporate taxes to 50 per cent, halting mass redundancies, raising higher-level income tax, scrapping banking secrecy laws and "creating hundreds and thousands of useful jobs".

But with success has come suspicion. Lutte Ouvrière's 7,000 members could constitute a sect, said Le Monde this week. The leftwing Libération accused it of being "France's most secretive political organisation".

It has, certainly, no headquarters where the public can go for information, just a post box number. Its leaders adopt pseudonyms. There is a telephone number, but you need to know where to look for it. Party members usually return calls from public phone boxes.

In the words of one member, militants "live as if the police were spying on them".

French media have talked of tests that must be passed before a prospective member can join: selling the party newspaper, gaining contacts. Members are asked to make "special financial contributions". Women who are serious about political activity are, it is said, discouraged from having children.

"They make you read a novel, Domitila, which tells the story of a Bolivian militant who was arrested, tortured and ended up talking because of her children," one member told Libération. Starting a family is seen as becoming bourgeois, and incompatible with the revolutionary ideal.

"It's nonsense, absolute nonsense," says Monique, sitting behind one of the party's many stands. "People are twisting words. Do we look like a sect? Journalists are a long way removed from workers, that's the problem. We are an annoyance for the bourgeoisie and the government, that's why they write this stuff."

She defends the secrecy: "Many of our members, particularly the younger ones, have a precarious hold on their jobs. If it were known that they were members of Lutte Ouvrière ... It's not police repression we fear, it's corporate repression."

Nonetheless, not many people want to give their names to a British journalist. "Call me Gloria," says one woman. "That sounds reasonable." A man behind a British-run stand serving tea refuses to give even a pseudonym.

"People like you, most people, don't understand that it's possible to devote your life, to organise your life around, your political beliefs," he says. "They won't ever understand."

José and Brigitte, from Lille, are happy to give their first names.

"We come for the debates, for the exchange of ideas, for the explanations of complicated subjects from scientists and experts," says José. "They explain things so ordinary people can understand them. You leave here full of hope."

Then he asks for a copy of the article. "Send it to the Lutte Ouvrière PO box," he says. "You can't be too careful."

Outrage at Orly as French pilots kick off World Cup strike

Paul Webster in Orly

PASSENGERS and ancillary staff at France's main domestic airport south of Paris yesterday joined the outcry against 3,200 Air France pilots who halted air traffic as they began a two-week strike likely to wreck travel plans for the football World Cup.

Orly will be the main airport for teams and spectators as the June 10 kick-off approaches and during the month-long competition. But the pilots' union SNPL ignored the barrage of criticism, led by the former captain of the French team and World Cup organiser, Michel Platini, who called the aircrew imbeciles.

Only 12 of the 140 scheduled Air France flights from Orly departed yesterday, and there was no sympathy for the strikers, who object to a proposed £50 million cut in their overall wage bill as a prelude to privatisation. Passengers pointed out that the pilots were being offered share options in compensation.

"They have nothing to complain about," a middle-aged man said as he waited for a hired car ordered by Air France because of a cancelled provincial link. "They get as much as company chairmen."

Air France, which carries about 100,000 passengers on a normal day, expects to lose about £10 million a day during the strike.

The pilots' spokesman, Christian Paris, shrugged off the unfavourable public reaction and blamed government incompetence, saying that no real attempt had been made to study the pilots' complaints.

Company officials said that, despite cancelling about 80 per cent of international flights, they expected to improve services from today. Planes and crews will be hired from other airlines.

The air strike is among several potential industrial protests as the World Cup approaches. Railworkers begin a week's action today, mainly in the Mediterranean area.

A protester waits for former president P. W. Botha at court in George yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: PETER ANDREWS

Botha knew of political killings, says spy chief

David Beresford in George

SOUTH AFRICA'S spy chief during the apartheid era confronted security force commanders with allegations that their men were murdering political opponents, it emerged yesterday at the trial of P. W. Botha.

The former president is charged with refusing to testify before the truth commission. The court also heard that F. W. de Klerk, the country's last white president, tried to end human rights abuses.

Mr Botha's case reopened in the magistrate's court in George — the Cape resort where he has retired — with testimony which indicated that the former president knew about the killings.

The executive secretary of the truth commission, Paul van Zyl, told the court that the former head of the National Intelligence Service, Neil Barnard, revealed that he had confronted the heads of the police and military.

P. W. Botha in George yesterday after his trial restarted

Dr Barnard, giving evidence in camera, had told the commission that his agency became aware that political figures were being murdered and that this was being approved by the state security council, which Mr Botha chaired.

"We were very upset and worried," Mr Van Zyl quoted Dr Barnard as saying.

When Dr Barnard admitted he had no evidence, the police chief, General Johan van der Merwe, and the defence force commander, General Jannie Geldenhuys, said they would investigate.

He had also raised the issue with Mr Botha. "He said he was also very worried about it and he would deal with it at a political level," Dr Barnard was quoted as saying.

Mr Van Zyl said that shortly after Mr de Klerk came to power in 1989 the new president told the state security council to limit itself to "purely security issues".

There has been heated controversy over Mr de Klerk's responsibility for political violence during his succession to the presidency. He was, however, a member of the state security council during his time as education minister.

It is not clear whether Mr Botha will testify at his trial. His family are believed to be anxious to prevent him appearing.

A former head of the defence force, General Constand Viljoen — who was in George yesterday — said he had tried to halt the prosecution, but a deal had fallen through.

Mr Botha's court appearance coincided with fresh speculation about the his love life. It is reported that he is planning to marry this month, at the age of 82. Local newspapers identified his new flame as Barbara Robertson, an Englishwoman 25 years his junior.

Mr Botha's wife, Elize, died last year.

Meanwhile one of the apartheid's most notorious assassins, Ferdi Barnard, was found guilty on a string of charges, including the murder of an anthropologist, David Webster, and the attempted assasaination of South Africa's current minister of justice, Dullah Omar.

Sodomy trial told of president's 'dancing lessons'

Alex Duval Smith in Harare

THE high court of Africa's most homophobic country sqnirmed through graphic accounts of homosexual sex yesterday as the former Zimbabwean president Canaan Banana sat in the dock, accused of sodomy and indecent assault.

On the first day of the trial of the 63-year-old Methodist minister, who was president from 1980 to 1987, a former aide-de-camp told of "dance lessons" at State House during which he was undressed and aexually assaulted.

"He offered me whisky, we played cards," Jefta Dube, the prosecntion'a key witness, said. "He offered to teach me ballroom music and during the dance he was pressing his erect penis against me. He gave me a French kiss before I broke away from him."

Dube alleges that he was raped and forced into a homosexual relationship by Mr Banana in the 1980s.

Mr Banana, who faces evidence from nine other former bodyguards and presidential staff, is charged with 11 counts of sodomy and indecent assault. In the country with Africa's most stringent anti-gay laws, he could be jailed for 10 years.

The father of four, he pleads not guilty to all the charges.

The case arose from Dnbe'a trial last year for murdering a colleague who had called him "Banana's wife". Afterwards the police received dozens of allegations of impropriety by the former president.

Among the 40 state witnesses are Vice-President Simon Muzenda, a presidential cook, an air force sqnad leader and a police chief inspector. Mr Banana is calling 10 witnesses in his defence, including his wife Janet.

The chief prosecutor, Augustine Chikumira, aaid that "taking advantage of his position", the former president had "coaxed a number of men into sexnal activities of which they did not approve and which they resisted."

"[If] his overtures were spnrned he would cause them to be penalised under the guise that they had committed acts of misconduct."

Dube, looking gaunt and swaying awkwardly as he recounted his ordeal, said he joined State House in December 1983 after Mr Banana, a keen football fan, had seen him play for the Black Mambas police team.

"I was called to the president's office. He wanted me to join his football clnb, the Tornados. I was told I would be promoted and would travel abroad," he said.

Tbe day Dnbe jolned State House, he was invited to dinner with the president. "After dlnner we went back to his office. I had a whisky and soda. I was then asked to dance," he said.

"He told me to follow his instructions. He grabbed my waist and put my hand on his shoulder. His penis was erect. I felt his stuhble against my face. I managed to remove myself and said I wanted to go bome. I went to see my aunt and cried all the way." Dube said.

"Hefore I left, be patted my bnttocks and said we would meet again. I cried because the person who had assaulted me was the president and I realised that I was now attached to him as an employee."

At his murder trial last year, Dube said the sexual abuse lasted three years and culminated in his being drugged and submitted to anal sex.

The case resumes today.

In the country with Africa's most stringent anti-gay laws, Banana faces 11 counts of sodomy and indecent assault

Harare protest turns violent

ABOUT 200 Zimbabwean studenta protesting at President Robert Mugabe's rule smashed shop windows in central Harare yesterday, witnesses said.

The students, who resumed a protest begun last week, wrecked more than a dozen shop windows but dispersed before the police arrived.

The police kept a presence at Africa Unity Square, where the students congregated in the morning, and at parliament building. The students have urged Mr Mugabe to quit gracefully or face the same fate as Indonesia's ousted President Suharto. — *Reuters.*

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Workers unload supplies for quake areas from a UN plane in Faizabad, northern Afghanistan PHOTOGRAPH: MUZAMMIL PASHA

In the shaken land, they wonder why Allah is punishing them

Afghans remain unbroken by two terrible quakes, reports **Claudia McElroy**, one of the first journalists on the scene

AS THE afternoon sun fades, Latif Shah, aged 39, faces another night at the mercy of the elements. The farmer's modest clay house was among the 1,000 in Shar-e-Buzurg completely destroyed when last Saturday's massive earthquake hit this Afghan mountain wilderness.

Mr Shah, however, is trying to come to terms with a much bigger loss — that of his wife and young child.

"My family was at home when I was out working. I don't know why I was the one who survived. I have lost everything in the world," he said bluntly. "We must leave everything in Allah's hands, but sometimes I wonder why He is punishing the people of this country so much."

The toll of suffering caused by the second major earthquake to hit northern Afghanistan in less than four months is hard to comprehend. Overlooked by the Pamir mountains, among the highest in the world, many villages in this remote and rugged terrain have been completely destroyed — if not by the earthquake itself, then by landslides.

In Shar-e-Buzurg district alone, 32 villages have been affected, according to the local authorities. Almost 50 more have not yet been visited. A further two districts, Chah Ab and Rostaq (the centre of last February's earthquake), have been largely devastated. Aid workers estimate that as many as 100 villages may have suffered, and up to 95,000 people may have been made homeless.

Despite the remoteness and inaccessibility of many of the affected areas, the response of international aid agencies has been swift. Two helicopters carrying medical supplies and other relief items from neighbouring Tajikistan arrived on Monday at the tiny airstrip at Faizabad, to be flown to outlying villages.

The International Red Cross and other agencies organised the logistical operations with military efficiency, while locals looked on from the nearby wreckage of buildings and rusted Soviet tanks, relics of another disastrous episode in Afghanistan's history. Painted white stones beyond the runway warned of the continuing danger of landmines.

"The scale of this disaster is massive, and we don't know the full extent of it yet," said Dr Mauricio Fernandez of the aid agency Médecins Sans Frontières. "Our main priority now is dealing with the medical emergency.

"Many people are probably still buried, although there will be few — if any — more survivors.

"Those who are wounded, mostly with fractures, will need medical treatment as soon as possible. Together with other agencies, such as Concern and the Red Cross, we have established clinics in three main centres. We also have a hospital for referrals in Rostaq, and there are about 80 people being treated there. The main problem is getting access to all the affected areas," he said.

"Since the weather is now much warmer, shelter is not the most urgent priority at this time."

Many Afghans were just beginning to recover from February's earthquake, rebuilding their homes and their livelihooda, when disaster struck for the second time. Many will not leave the area — partly because of the continuing violence in some areas of the war-torn country, and because this is the harvest season for the wheat, barley and rice many depend upon.

"This is my home and my land," said Mr Shah in Shar-e-Buzurg. "I have nowhere else to go. I will stay here and hope that God has better things in store for the future."

Homeless villagers evacuate a victim PHOTOGRAPH: SAEED KHAN

'This is my home and my land, I have nowhere else to go. I will stay here and hope that God has better things in store for the future'

Experts rule out bomb tests

Rory Carroll

SEISMOLOGISTS dismissed claims yesterday that the earthquake which devastated northern Afghanistan could have been triggered by Pakistan's nuclear tests.

The scientific evidence pointed to natural causes and denied Afghanistan any grounds to seek compensation, they said.

Saturday's quake, which measured 6.9 on the Richter scale, killed 5,000 people, flattened entire villages, sliced mountains and triggered landslides. Two days earlier Pakistan detonated an underground nuclear device several hundred miles away.

The two incidents were unconnected, said David Booth, a seismologist at the British Geological Survey.

"It's just a coincidence. There is absolutely no evidence to say they were linked. That area of the world has very high seismicity. Large and shallow earthquakes in areas such as these are quite a regular occurence," he said.

The underground detonation measured 4.7 on the Richter scale — making it 2,000 times less powerful than the quake, he said.

"There are 100 earthquakes every year measuring more than six on the scale," he said. "They don't bear any relation to nuclear tests."

Among those killed on Saturday were 140 schoolchildren in Rostaq, the site of the earthquake on February 4 which killed as many as 2,300 people and left 8,000 homeless.

Pakistani helicopters airlifted tons of food, blankets, tents and plastic sheeting yesterday to Faisabad in Badakhashan, about 30 miles from the quake's epicentre in Shari Basurkh.

Many of the latest victims were living in tents after losing their homes in the February quake.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Country matters . . . Condry's writing had 'a scholarship so lightly and modestly worn, an attention so close as to become the purest celebration' PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MORGAN

William Condry

Closely observed Wales

TWO evenings ago, on the last fine Sunday of a glorious May, I walked up to Clogwyn Du'r Arddu, the "black cliff of the black height" on Snowdon's northern flank. As the sun slanted beneath the cloud, sparkling on the lake and silvering the crags, I thought how peculiarly blessed I had been in having spent time here over the years in the company of William "Bill" Condry, the writer and Guardian country diarist, who has died aged 80.

Above me, an opportunistic raven was sneaking in to the nesting site of a pair of choughs in the old mine workings and suddenly the quiet cwm was alive with the parent birds' screams and aerobatics. So, lazing over coffee in the morning sun, I was promising myself that I would write to Bill and let him know that things were still thus, that the flowers he loved thrived and the choughs were still nesting on Snowdon. I would write to him because I owed to him my knowledge of these things.

Then the phone rang, and Dyfed Elis-Gruffydd, the editor of both Bill's and my books at Gomer Press, the Welsh publisher for whom we have had an unreasoning and unswerving affection, was telling me that Bill had died of kidney failure in Morriston hospital. And I went back and sat on my doorstep, and looked out across the sand-flats of Traeth Lafan and the flocks of wading birds clustering along the ebb-tide, and wept quietly as the sense of the privilege of having known him and the loss overwhelmed me.

I first came to know of Bill, as would surely have been the case for those Guardian readers who looked forward to his Country Diary on alternate Saturdays, through his writings. His book on the Snowdonia National Park was published in 1966 as number 47 in Collins' magisterial project, the New Naturalist series. As a young and ignorant rock-climber, newly settled for the sake of his sport in North Wales, I read it with enjoyment, and also with something more than that — a sense of discovery; an excitement at the grace of surprising perspectives on a landscape I already knew well, a recognition of a rare quality of mind both questing and thoroughly in control of its material.

I wasn't then inclined to view it as a literary masterpiece. After all, it wasn't a drama, a novel or a poem; it wasn't obviously a product of the imagination as they were. As my own acquaintance with literature broadened, and I read my Thoreau and Gilbert White, my Jefferies and Borrow, Pennant and Cobbett, my Matthiessen and Mabey and Lopez, that crass distinction broke down. I returned regularly over the years to Condry's plainly-titled volume, and it was with a deepening awareness of its achievement and its passion.

There is an easy charm of knowledge about it that derives from long years of intimate acquaintance and is expressed in concise and lucid terms. I've seldom come across so formidable a scholarship so lightly and modestly worn. There is an attention so close as to become the purest celebration.

And there is a marvellous quality of thought and language too — the one, teasing and wry, challenging us always with the long perspectives and our own frequent shallowness of response; the other, possessed of a rhythmical economy that often seems to aspire to the state of poetry, and at times even begs to be read aloud. It's the best book ever written about one of the most beautiful regions on earth, and it's not dated at all in the more than 30 years since its first appearance.

The first contact I had with Bill came through editing an anthology of mountain literature. I wanted to include writing that gave a broader context than mere climbing, and I wrote to Bill for permission to include some of his. He protested mischievously at association with "that philistine tribe of despoilers", and continued to berate me for the next 15 years about my indulgence in so stupid a pastime — and he gave his consent.

AS the years passed and I came to know him better, the teasing persisted — those merciless wild eyebrows mockingly raised and the smile benign beneath — and the friendship grew. There were memorable days with him on the hills when things that might otherwise have passed unnoticed for me were illuminated by his enthusiasm, and yet this process of education was pursued so modestly and humorously, without a trace of didacticism but always with a plea that I just look for myself, that its effect was imperceptible — and the more potent for being so.

As I suppose had been the case with Bill's own beginnings. He was born in the then-leafy suburbs of south-west Birmingham (he retained that city's rounded speech-tones throughout his long residence in Wales), and in his autobiography, *Wildlife, My Life* (Gomer Press, 1995), he tells of a childhood consumed by the love of a gentle nature all around him: "There were still ploughlands out towards Tom Nocker's wood, where lapwings, partridges and yellowhammers were making their last stand. In the abandoned garden of a once genteel country house, a former goldfish pond was full of great crested newts ... On roadside tree-trunks in September, we sometimes found the large, spike-talled caterpillars of the lime and poplar hawkmoths. Nothing thrilled my infant mind more ..."

I particularly remember one botanising January walk on Cader Idris a few years ago when we sat beneath the saxifrage outcrops of Llyn y Gafr and he talked at length about these beginnings and his own progress to Wales: his father was a craftsman-jeweller, a diamond-setter, and politically very active — a pacifist, a follower of Keir Hardie and a member of the Independent Labour Party. Both he and Bill's mother were Clarionites, which gave a vital clue in the intellectual mantle that Bill himself inherited.

THE name came from the paper run by Robert Blatchford, whose two-million-selling book *Merrie England* was, in 1893, the great popularising tract for socialism in Britain, and which opened with an injunction to its readers to study Thoreau's *Walden: Or Life In The Woods*. So the exemplary individualism and intense, loving observation of Thoreau (on whom Bill later wrote a distinguished book) led a generation of British working people to the outdoor life.

Bill's mother's influence was strong, too, singing *The Song of Hiawatha*, with its pagan appreciation of nature, to her children, taking them camping for a month at a time in the summer to the then-remote coast of Meirionnydd. "I haven't been all the way up this path since 1923," he told me by Llyn y Gafr, and went on to describe that summer, his father joining them after a couple of weeks and the family taking the train from Talybont to Arthog and walking up Cader.

Bill recalled him complaining bitterly at having to pay sixpence for a cup of tea in the refreshment but on top because everywhere else it would have been a penny. He told me about the people on ponies, and the guide they saw in Dolgellau with "Gulde to the grand and sublime beauties of Cader Idris" stitched in bold letters around his hat.

On our way up to Llyn y Gafr, Bill had introduced me to a cast of botanical characters who peopled this landscape for him: Price Evans, the pupil-teacher from the school at Upper Corris, who became a headmaster in the north of England and an acknowledged authority on the plants of Cader. He was sketched in with the raindrops bouncing off his bald skull, lying flat on his back having tripped, and continuing without a break his peroration on *woodsia alpina*, or giving out a hint, in a chance meeting with the most eminent geologist of the day, that the rocks he had been mapping can be traced by following the colonies of green spleenwort.

Bill talked of Mary Richards, of Caernynwch (whose biography, to be published by Gomer next month, he had finished just before his death) — what she didn't know about the flora of Meirionnydd and Africa not being worth knowing. And of W H Mappin, to whose kindness he owed the house on Ynys Hir nature reserve where he and his wife, Penny, lived.

There was the poet, R S Thomas, on holiday with Bill in Les Landes, under arrest for being in possession of a pair of binoculars near a French military base, unconcernedly raising them to gaze into a tree, murmuring "woodchat shrike" to himself to the bemusement of the arresting soldiers and ticking it off on his list. All these and more characters he talked about with a shining affection for their foibles, their knowledge and their humanity.

Bill lived in Wales for 50 years — fitting, he always said, for someone born on St David's Day. He knew that jewelled country better maybe than anyone ever has, and produced book after book in celebration of it. He'll live on there. People who engage with a landscape so intensely and lovingly as he did become a part of it, and in the minds of those whom they have taught to see are always present within it. That affable raven of yesterday, protesting that he was just taking a look — how Bill would have smiled, his spirit freed in the night. Or maybe it was another of his teases, first in a new guise . . ?

Jim Perrin

William Martin Condry, countryman and writer, born March 1, 1918; died May 30, 1998

A celebration of the life of William Condry will be held at Y Tabernacle, Machynlleth, on Sunday, July 26 at 3pm

Joy of the mountains and mist

William Condry's account of his search for the elusive purple saxifrage, typical of his perceptive writing, appeared as a Country Diary in the Guardian on February 11, 1995

MACHYNLLETH: I missed the weather forecast on the radio last Sunday morning but someone told me later that if I had heard it, I certainly would not have gone to the hills. But go I did, for this is the time of my annual visit to Cader Idris in the hope of seeing the purple saxifrage beginning to flower. I have only once found it showing colour so early in the season but I hoped that this year, encouraged by a wonderfully warm November followed by a December and a January that included a fair number of mild days, this beautiful saxifrage might be doing something special.

It was dry as I went up the first few hundred feet. Then I was in a fog, which got steadily thicker, and if I had not been very familiar with the track called Foxes' Path, I might soon have got lost. When you are feeling your way through dense mist, it can be quite alarming how suddenly walls and rocks come at you. I knew I had to find one of the lakes but I was almost walking into its shallows before I realised it was there. I followed the lake edge, stumbling over slippery wet boulders and clumps of heather. When I had reached what I calculated was the right spot, I left the lake and clambered straight up the hillside. I was now in real fog, seeing nothing of the cliffs I was aiming for until I was almost touching them.

Once there, I knew perfectly where I was, so often had I made this pilgrimage. There was the purple saxifrage in profusion, having clearly wintered very well so far. But nowhere was there yet a hint of purple. There were plenty of well-developed buds but all were resolutely closed. But I felt no disappointment. Though I had struggled so far up towering slopes and screes, I had seen the purple saxifrage about to burst into spring. In early February, I do not ask any mountain to give me more than that.

Phil Hartman

Funny voices of America

PHIL HARTMAN, the American comic actor and former member of the Saturday Night Live US television show, has died aged 49, shot dead at his Californian home by his wife, Brynn, after which she turned the gun on herself, according to police in Los Angeles. Although his career as an entertainer only took off 13 years ago, he was widely admired for his modesty and devotion to family life.

Phil Hartmann (he later dropped the second 'n') was born in Canada but his family moved to Los Angeles when he was a teenager. He became popular at high school for his impersonations, but at that time did not consider a show-business career. Instead, he became a graphic artist, designing album covers for rock bands and devising the logo for the Crosby, Stills & Nash band.

In 1975, he joined the LA Groundlings, an improvisational troupe of actors in which he met the comedian Paul "Pee-Wee Herman" Reubens. Hartman co-wrote Reubens's popular 1985 film *Pee-Wee's Big Adventure* and appeared in it to good notices. The following year he joined Saturday Night Live and stayed with the satirical comedy show for eight years.

During that time he became widely known for his amusing impersonations of 70 people, including Ronald Reagan, Lyndon Johnson, Frank Sinatra, Jack Nicholson, John Wayne, Ted Kennedy and preacher Jimmy Swaggart. His greatest success was Bill Clinton, whom he slyly mocked for his southern "sincerity". The president sent him a signed photograph saying he liked the mimickry — "mostly".

In 1990 Hartman began doing voices for the Simpsons television cartoon series, playing the incompetent lawyer Lionel Hutz and the actor Troy McClure; he was eventually heard on 49 episodes. By then, he had established a reputation for professionalism, but he never regarded himself as a proper actor; he felt he was neither cute nor brilliant enough. He was, however, given the part of the vain newscaster Bill McNeal in the NBC comedy series *NewsRadio* in 1995. But the network kept changing the show's time slot and some critics believed it would be cancelled, despite their praise. Last month, NBC announced that the show would continue in the autumn, although its future is now in doubt.

Hartman appeared in secondary roles in half a dozen films, including *Coneheads*, and *Jingle All the Way*, usually playing unpleasantly self-absorbed types with pretentious attitudes. He was looking forward to the release next month of his latest film, *Small Soldiers*, which he hoped would establish his big screen presence.

Hartman's early death adds to a series of untimely deaths of former Saturday Night Live stars. John Belushi died of a drug overdose in 1982, aged 33; Gilda Radner, who went from the Second City touring group to SNL and then on to Broadway and Hollywood, died of cancer in 1989 aged 42, and Chris Farley, the overweight funnyman also from the Second City touring group, died last December from a drug overdose.

Christopher Reed

Philip Edward Hartmann (Hartman), comic actor and impersonator, born September 24, 1948; died May 28, 1998

Hartman . . . versatile

Dennis Scuse

Radio waves

FOR more than 20 years after the war, German-based British soldiers relied on the record request programme *Two-Way Family Favourites* — a partnership between the BBC Light Programme (now Radio 2) and the British Forces Network (BFN) — as a link with their loved ones back home. Its presenter in Germany in the early days was Dennis Scuse, who has died aged 76.

Scuse was one of that select group of broadcasters who brought to the BBC some of the resourcefulness they had acquired in wartime. He had served in army broadcasting in Africa and Italy. In 1949, he became BFN's assistant director in Germany, and between 1950 and 1957 he was director.

This was in many ways a crucial post. There was a substantial British presence in Germany, hungry for entertainment and news from home, and regional German radio stations were being set up with allied help to ensure a clean break from the Nazi state broadcasting system.

Resources were scarce, and the medium wave band so crowded that stations had to share wave-lengths. Scuse co-operated imaginatively with the Germans and Americans, moved BFN from Hamburg to Cologne, and in 1955 switched it to frequency modulation — making it the world's first English-speaking FM station.

Scuse was an immensely tall man with great presence, an unexpected sense of humour, and considerable administrative talents. His best-known successor on *Two-Way Family Favourites*, Cliff Michelmore — who married Scuse's early co-presenter, Jean Metcalfe — remembers him as "innovative and a very good listener."

After BFN, Scuse joined BBC Television and devised a scheme, whereby producers were given a share of any programme sales in the form of extra funding for their next project. Later, after a spell in the BBC's New York office, he headed BBC Enterprises, which was set up to sell the corporation's programmes to other companies.

His BBC career ended when — it is said — the post to which he had next been appointed was given instead to a retiring director-general. Scuse left to set up a private broadcasting consultancy. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, and a son.

Philip Purser

Dennis George Scuse, broadcaster, born May 15, 1921; died April 30, 1998

Death Notices

BARNES. Kenneth Charles (Founder with his first wife, Frances, of Wennington School), on May 29th, peacefully in hospital, aged 94 years. Husband of Eleanor, father of Rosalind and Roger, a proud grandad and great grandad. A meeting for worship in thankfulness for his life will be held at York Crematorium, Thursday 4th June at 1pm. No flowers, please. Donations if desired to Quaker Overseas Work, plans available at the service.

MILNER, Marion (née Blackwell), psychoanalyst, artist, author, born 1 February 1900. Died, pen-in-hand, 29 May 1998. Funeral All Saints, Talbot Road, Highgate, 11am Saturday, 6 June. Flowers (optional) to Leverton.

OGILVY-WEBB, Marjorie died 22nd May. Funeral 3pm, St. Marylebone Crematorium, East End Road, Finchley N2. Flowers to Millers Funeral Directors, 95 Essex Rd N1.

PIDDUCK, of Bramhope, Leeds 16, May 28, peacefully in Wheatfields Hospice, aged 72 years. Betty, beloved wife of the late John Pidduck, a dearly loved step-mother and granny, dearest sister, sister-in-law and aunty. Service and cremation will take place at Lawnswood crematorium, Leeds 16 on Thursday, June 4 at 12.30pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Wheatfields Hospice, Headingley, Leeds 6, for which a box will be provided at the service.

Births

SHARON & DAVID North (née Hack). Hannah-Marie born on 21 May. A sister for Alexander and cousin for Megan. Our love and thanks to our children for the fun and joy our grandchildren bring into our lives. Richard & Patricia Hack.

TUNSTALL. Leicester, 24th May, to Carey and Dan, a daughter, Alexandra Constance Louise.

Birthdays

DEVERELL, Annelee, is 21 today. Congratulations and love from Mum, Dad, Katie and Jacqui. Three out of three.

Marriages

DORAN/GAMBLE. The wedding of Nick, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Doran, and Ally, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Gamble, took place on May 29th, 1998 in Islington. Love and congratulations, Mum, Dad, Martin and Liz.

BRUMMITT/O'DONNELL. The marriage of Martin Brummitt and Amy O'Donnell was celebrated at Burgh House, Hampstead on Saturday 30th May and witnessed by Matthew Tutt and Vanessa Best.

■To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4123 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

A Country Diary

SOMERSET: Across the cattle-grid, along the track, across empty pastureland and past the substantial, four-square farmhouse, I sat in a dark cider-barn (still functional) and heard how the owner had lived on this farm for 61 years. His grandfather, a carter, died young of pneumonia, and the widow was given a shilling a week by the parish. His father blacked boots at the rectory one day a week in return for breakfast, left school at 13 to work on the land, and often enjoyed a trussed and cooked blackbird for his packed lunch. In time, he went to the war, and afterwards demonstrated his acquired countryman's skills and instinct for good husbandry sufficiently to be granted the tenancy of a small county council holding under a scheme for ex-servicemen. In 1937, now with a young family — including Bertie, my informant — he heard that a larger, privately-owned farm nearby was to let. He cycled to Castle Cary and impressed the agent as a sound man to recommend to the owner, who offered a fair deal. So the family stepped up to Higher Farm, 140 acres, 35 cows, and a steady living to be made by their co-operative effort with one horse to do the mowing, harrowing and carting and provide family transport on occasion. She would trot at a steady 13mph to Castle Cary. One, or sometimes two, men were employed. The only paperwork involved cheque-book and paying-in book and the only representative of officialdom was the local policeman. Everything was done by hand — milking, pulling weeds, making hay, building sheaves and roofing ricks. The second war brought men with maps to decree that certain fields of choice pasture be ploughed for wheat. This was more than the horse could do. The ministry supplied an iron-wheeled tractor. Mechanisation, intensification, specialisation, quotas and regulation followed. Now there are no cows and the pasture is let for "grasskeep" at falling prices.

JOHN VALLINS

Birthdays

Prof Heather Couper, astronomer, 49; Mark Elder, musical director, 51; Marvin Hamlisch, composer, 54; Rt Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, 62; Prof Dame Rosalyn Higgins, QC, international jurist, 61; Trevor Jesty, cricket umpire, 50; Stacy Keach, actor, 57; Gay Kindersley, racehorse trainer, 68; Sonia Lawson, painter, 45; Prof Robin Orr, composer, 88; Carol Shields, novelist, 63; Johnny Speight, scriptwriter, 78; Craig Stadler, golfer, 45; Francesca Staniforth, textile designer, 41; Sir Sigmund Sternberg, financier, 77; Barbara Tate, president, Society of Women Artists, 71; Charlie Watts, drummer, 57; David Wheaton, tennis player, 29.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN OUR extracts from *Windrush: The Irresistible Rise Of Multi-Racial Britain*, published in the Guardian Weekend, May 16, pages 38-46, we said, quoting from the book, that Lenny Henry arrived in Britain as a child in the sixties. In fact, he was born in England — at Burton Road Hospital in Dudley. He went to work in a welding factory after leaving school, and got his break in show business via New Faces.

IN OUR obituary of Alan Milne, Page 20, May 29, we referred to several figures whose work had influenced him but got the names of three of them wrong. We should have said Leslie Stephen, [L T] Hobhouse and Morris Ginsberg. Milne's father was referred to as a Fraserborough businessman. That should have been Fraserburgh.

IN A report on page 7, May 25, headed, Culture secretary's book 'semi-literate', we described Winston Churchill as one of four 20th century prime ministers not to attend a university, and said the others were John Major, James Callaghan and Ramsay MacDonald. We omitted David Lloyd George, Andrew Bonar Law and Neville Chamberlain.

A CAPTION to a photograph illustrating a report on Page 25, May 28, said, "A tanker moves towards Sullom Vce in the Shetlands . . ." The vessel, the Safe Lancia, is a floating accommodation vessel (flo-tel or floating hotel), not a tanker.

ON THE front of G2 yesterday, we promised "hundreds of pages" of [Media] jobs. We exaggerated. Sorry.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

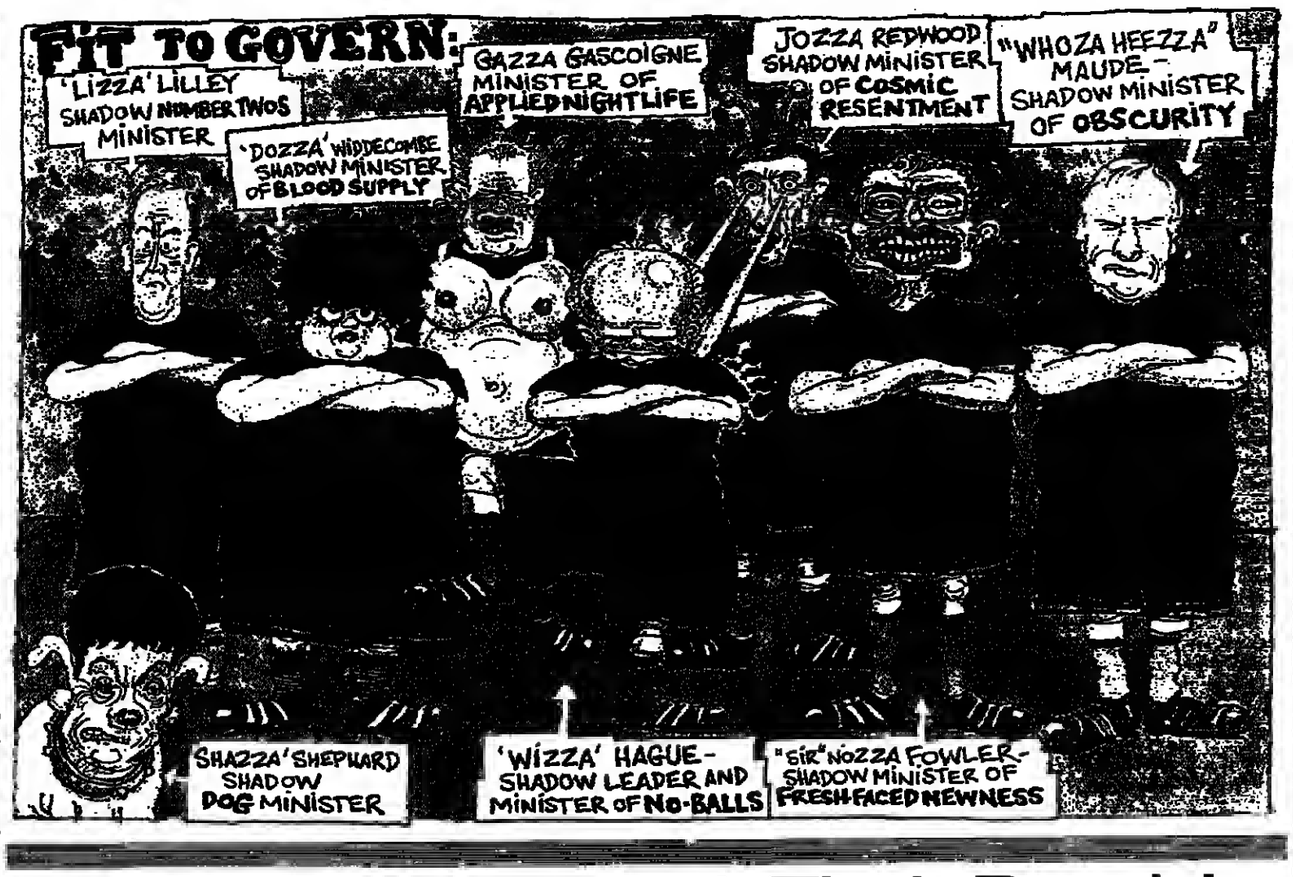
THIS is terribly hard to believe, bnt according to the Sunday Times, civil servants are being bullied — redneed to tears even — by New Labour ministers. Harriet Harman, the intimidatingly bright Social Security secretary, is among the worst offenders, it seems, and apparently instructed officials to brief against a colleague of theirs to save face during a row about ministerial pay rises. This is shocking, but I think I can see what the problem might be. Mysteriously, Your Guide To Working With Harriet, the 10-page document leaked to us 18 months ago, has not made the transfer into government. "No, we've never beard of the guide here," confirms a DSS press officer. No wonder it's all gone wrong, then. Containing vital advice about everything from taking calls from Jack Dromey, Hattie's old man, to her pairing arrangements, this leaflet is indispensable. Unfortunately, we lost our copy long ago, but thanks to regressive hypnotherapy, mnch of it is being rescued from the memory banks for further serialisation. Tomorrow: Brewing and Pouring Harriet's Tea (And How to Put the Pot in the Dishwasber Without Chipping the Rim).

MOVING far from bullying, we come to my old friend Alastair Campbell. Ali has been contacted by that prolific correspondent Brian Bethell, wbo suggests scrapping that ontmoded song the Red Flag on conference platforms, and replacing it with something more fitting . . . the theme tune, in fact, from Thunderbirds. "Dear Brian," Ali replies. "I'm troubled how to respond, because I can't work out if yon are being serious or not. On the assumption you are, I'll get my Thunderbirds thinking hat on." We hope this titfer gives him no ideas. Writing of servicing wealthy Riviera bousewives is one thing; but let's keep Lady Penelope out of it, for God's sake.

THE appraisal of Malcolm Pearson, the Daily Telegraph's chief Jonathan Aitken panegyrist (if there is sucb a word) continues. Lord Pearson, you will recall, recently revealed that Jonathan Aitken lied about his Paris Ritz bill to protect his undercover work for MI6 — a story swiftly denied by Jonathan himself. Last week, in seeking to gauge his Lordship's reliability, we learnt how he was visited by an agent of God, the creator of mankind, during an operation on his varicose veins. Tomorrow, we will examine events surrounding his conviction for drink driving four years ago, and Lord Pearson's claims of a police conspiracy against him.

APOLOGIES to all who have written to claim champagne over the weekend, bnt the special one-off nonagenarian offer — a key part of the drive to rebrand the Diary as the column for the maturer reader — closed last week. A special word of thanks, finally, to the person who wrote in from the Thomson Day Care centre in London. Making a mass application for 11 bottles — for three men and eight women — was a spirited attempt, and no one admires chntzpah more than us. Another time, perhaps.

STRIKE me pink (already), Boris the Jackal Johnson bas become a pantomime Jew after interviewing Rabbi Schmuley Boteach, anthor of the guide to "kosher sex", and a young man who might make something of himself one day should he ever shake off his crippling shyness. "He's been pictured with a glass of champagne. On a bed. Oy vey!" wrote the Telegraph enforcer of Schmuley. Oy vey! indeed, and a Hava Nagila to boot. "No, the Guv'nor ain't here, my dear," says a soft sibilant voice not unlike the late Ron Moody's when I call. "He's gawn to Stamford Hill with the shikseh wife, to buy a Volvo. Then he's off to New York for lunch at the Carnegie Deli with Jackie Mason. Emmus, he won't be back in the office until after shabbas." Would you have a mobile number for him? "Bubbla," says the voice, amusedly, "do I sound like a raving meshuggenah? Now sod off, my dear."



Our Bomb is sacred. Their Bomb's a disgrace. That's hypocrisy for you

Hugo Young

NEW Labour was built on nuclear weapons. There were other foundations as well, but the Bomb was proof of virtue even earlier than One Member One Vote, and it had deep consequences. Excluding CND from the aura of the party required the abandonment of all discussion of Britain's nuclear policy. Even to mention this as a matter worth debating was to defile oneself. Hardly any Labour politician has done so for the past five years. The tests by India and Pakistan, however, don't permit the silence to continue. For Britain was an accessory before the fact of them. Their happening engages Britain as a member of the nuclear club, but for a more particular reason too.

The argument India used for its five tests was, essentially, the same Britain has used since she went nuclear 50 years ago. The critical propellant in both cases was the need for status and apparent independence. "We will not accept an unequal system," said the ruling party, the BJP. "This says we will do what we want to do," blurted Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Although the China threat came into the attendant dialectic, along with the dcomed pre-emptive jump on Pakistan, the dancing in the Delbi streets celebrated national virility, and the illnsion that the Bomb would make India more secure.

India's gambit carries dangers that are far from unimaginable. It wasn't new technically: we've known for 25 years that India could make a bomb, and so, with China's bootlegged belp, could Pakistan. But the shameless testing heightens tension, sets a potent example, breaks a taboo thet many other nuclear-capable countries — Argentina, Brazil, Iran, South Africa — have preserved. Smashing through the elaborate construct of global treaties, India, followed by Pakistan, justifies itself by reference to the theory and practice of nuclear powerdom. As a small power, Britain, in particular, is the model — and now, sermonising to the sub-continent, the hypocrite.

To this charge, Britain has some answers, but they're far from perfect. The Bomb is the most sacred relic of Britain's past. We got it because we knew how to make it, and Washington wanted us to have it. We justified it as an addition to western defence, a stand-in for the Americans' unreliable nuclear commitment to Europe. But in the real world nobody ever took seriously the pretence that Britain would use it on ber own. Its value was as a ticket of entry, in certain arenas, to the top table.

This continues in the New Labour world. A vast theology has grown up around the British bomb, which will not be revised. The Trident subs thet carry it sail on, MoD war games seek the new enemies against whom it might be launched. The number of warheads Trident should carry remains a subject of debate, and will feature in the coming defence review. The admirals and the theologians live their lives immersed in the nuclear possibility.

In defence terms, however, it is fiction parading as unexaminable fact. Status — the Indian obsession — is what continoes to matter most in Britain. Remaining a player in the Virtual War preserves the anachronism of our seat on the UN Security Council. The Bomb is a refuge from the national decline so visible on other fronts since we got it. Its putative abandonment is therefore protected from any pressures for an ethical foreign policy. Could there be anything more ethical that reconfiguring defence policy so that this country forsakes the nuclear option, sets an example to the world, withdraws from India, Pakistan and other rogue states some of their plausibility, and destroys the illusion that these weapons could ever, in any case, be prudently used?

That dramatic gesture will not be made. On the other hand, nuclear powerdom imposes responsibilities. Here, after all, is a new situation of tinder-box fragility: two border powers, readying their fissile material, unrestrained by the decades of sophisticated dialogue that built a species of gruesome trust between the US and the USSR — which even then witnessed several catastrophic episodes when the world came close to frying in a nuclear accident. India and Pakistan are innocents at operating the deterrent doctrine of mutually assured destruction. But since they have failed to sbow restraint, the nuclear powers face their own neglected obligations towards disarmament.

THE Asians' recklessness is shocking, and their playing with the poverty of the people a savage disgrace. But it won't be undone. Meanwhile, nuclear disarmament has stalled. America and Russia have lost the energy to improve on a regime that will leave each of them with 3,500 warbeads finely targeted on the other's cities in 2003, and maybe 2,500 in 2008. America, as the sole snper-power, is proving especially dumb in her refusal to start the process of disarming down towards a fraction of those figures, the maximum required to perform the virtual task that any war-game requires of them.

The enlightened response to India and Pakistan is no longer to bleat against them, or even simply to sanction them, but for the nuclear powers to dedicate themselves to a world free of nnclear weapons, abandoning the illusion that sucb weapons any longer prevent war, if they ever did. A mind-cracking task for the generals. But Mikhail Gorbachev proposed a 15-year target for that in 1986. To resuscitate it as something achievable by, say, 2020 would be a plausible international commitment, and the only way, as we may now see, to throttle nuclear proliferation. Non-proliferation is currently pursued under an unequal treaty which legitimises the nuclear status of five states.

The pledge would require Washington and Moscow to rise above the sloth of their politicians, and the demands of their military industries. But Britain, a prime *agent provocateur* in this matter, has ber own opportunities, if watered-down ethics can be allowed to prevail. One of them is to cut to a minimum the new warbeads carried on Trident. That might still mean almost 100, enough to destroy the world, but it is an available signal.

Mainly, however, we have the choice between activity and inertia: pushing the nuclear debate, or continuing to bury it by default. A strange disinterest infects the western attitude to the nuclear subcontinent. This is happening a long way away. In fact, it's the wake-up message which says the status quo worldwide is hideously unsustainable.

Mystery of Officer XX

Paul Foot

WHAT a commotion followed my mild reflections a fortnight ago about the Stephen Lawrence inquiry! On the day my column was published, counsel to the inquiry Edmund Lawson QC rose to make a portentous statement. He was angry about what he called "an unfounded complaint". I'm not going to argue with Mr Lawson about what is founded and what isn't. I was merely pointing out that material which might be relevant to the inquiry was not being disclosed. I was surprised in particular by the deletion of names of young men in a car which passed by the murder scene soon after Stephen Lawrence was stabbed, especially since the young men had been involved in the racist murder of Rolan Adams in 1991. No thanks to the inquiry team, this deletion was uncovered and the names disclosed. I was also worried about the reluctance to disclose information about the notorious criminal Clifford Norris, wbose son was one of the original suspects for the Lawrence murder — suspects wbom the police took an unconscionable time to arrest apparently because the senior policeman involved didn't realise after a lifetime arresting people in South London that be could make arrests on suspicion. I am delighted to see that this matter too is now being addressed. The day after my article appeared the inquiry adjourned for two days to discuss the disclosure of police intelligence documents on Norris. I was also interested to bear that some of the regular journalists covering the inquiry objected to leaving the room wben ordered to do so — in protest at the secrecy of the lawyers' discussions about disclosure. I feel bound to report, moreover, that a leaflet has been circulating in the inquiry room by "the people of the public gallery" demanding more openness.

I AM glad to report Mr Lawson's firm commitment that "if anything should come to our notice to suggest that there was any connection between Clifford Norris and any police officer, we would procure [sic] that that information was disclosed. Thus far it has not come to our notice, despite our looking at a great many documents, but if it did it would be disclosed". Now that a link between Norris and a flying squad officer has come to light, we can obviously look forward to a full public examination of it. Unhappily, the inquiry has directed thet the officer should be known as XX (two letters are now necessary because the inquiry has already run through a whole alphabet of pseudonyms).

A crucial aim of these inquiries is to solicit information from the public. How can anyone be expected to come forward with information about Officer XX?

FIRST OUT of the trap with support for the government's minimum wage figure of £3.60 an hour was Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways and the Confederation of British Industry. Sir Colin is supremely well qualified to assess the £3.60 figure.

Assuming he works a 10-hour day and a five-day week, his directorships alone bring him in £3.60 a minute. Obviously he can't be expected to survive on that, so he tops it up with the usual ridiculous share options.

Sir Colin is a founder member of the MillioBlair Club, New Labour's fat cats. On April 28 he was guest of honour at a British-American Chamber of Commerce dinner at the Park Lane Hotel. The guest speaker was the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I gather the menu inclnded Brown Soup, Roast Ayling Duckling garnished with mashed unions, Spotted Dirty Trick and Mono Poly-Pudding — all washed down with vintage Cabin Cru '97. After dinner, there was a jolly game of Hunt the Scrounger. The winner was the first reveller to find a hotel worker who earns in a week what Sir Colin Marshall "earned" while scoffing his dinner.

FOR MOST of the 1990s, Labour Party supporters fought a heroic rearguard action against successive Tory party education Ministers attempts to force state schools out of democratic control. "Opting out" they called it. "Grant-maintained" schools were "liberated" from "local bureaucracy" (elected councils). Head teachers were encouraged to behave like business bosses, and to treat other schools in their areas like competitors in the market. Taking their lead from Labour's education experts — notably an ambitious new MP from the North East, Stephen Byers — Labour supporters argued that this policy was wasteful and invidious; and above all fatal to the interdependence between comprehensive schools which is so vital to a thriving state education system. Such campaigners proved remarkably successful. What are these people to make of a new Government paper, written in the usual ghastly Blairite prose by the aforementioned Stephen Byers, New Labour's minister for school standards, which concedes every single point made by his detested Tory predecessors?

> How can anyone come forward with information about this policeman?

Throughout Europe the conservative response to politicians like Blair is to start opening its ranks to the right

Sleeping with Silvio

Martin Walker

BECAUSE thesa are grim times for the conservative parties of Europe, they are planning an act of such political desperation that it may result in a kind of suicide. They are about to embrace in their ranks the populist and highly controversial Forza Italia party of the media magnate SIlvio Berlusconi.

At the insistence of Germany's Christian Democrats and Spain's conservatives and Britain's Tories, the Forza Italia movement is to be formally welcomed into the European Peoples' Party on June 9.

Five days later, on the eve of the European summit in Cardiff, Britain's William Hague will set aside his Euroscepticism to join the other EU conservative party leaders at a special political summit, at which Mr Berlusconi will be enfolded into the embrace of Europe's respectable right.

The price to be paid for this could be high. Belgian, Dutch and Italian Christian Democrats have all fought the move desperately, only to be overwhelmed by the big battalions of the British, Germans and Spaniards. The Italians were told bluntly that their reading of the EPP constitution was wrong; they did not have — as everyone had hitherto assumed — the right to veto new political parties from their own country joining the new alliance of the right.

There are several motives for this. One is the conservative envy at the way Tony Blair has breathed new life into the European socialist movement, developing close personal ties with the Dutch and Swedish prime ministers and openly looking forward to seeing the German social democrat Gerhard Schroeder replace Helmut Kohl in the September elections.

Another reason is that the voting strength of the EPP in the European Parliament will instantly swell from 180 to 204. Not enough yet to challenge the grip of the left, but the enlarged EPP is then hoping that next year's European Parliament elections will see enough losses of Labour MEPs in Britain to let them become the biggest political group in a parliament whose powers will sharply increase now that the Amsterdam treaty has been ratified.

> Hague is to help enfold Forza Italia into the respectable embrace of Europe

The deeper motive is that the right is in crisis across Europe. Their grand champion, Helmnt Kohl, is threatened with the end of his 16-year reign in the elections this September. Their most durable ruling party, the Dntch conservatives who were in power solidly from 1918 until four years ago, have just been defeated yet again. Tha right was tossed out of power in last year's French elections, and was humiliated earlier this year by the strong showing of the National Front in the municipal elections.

The traditional respectable right are feeling squeezed on the right by dublons and populist groups, who are winning votes on anti-immigrant platforms. They ara squeezed in the centre by the way that nominally socialist politicians like Tony Blair and Holland's Wim Kok and Sweden's Goran Persson are following the Bill Clinton model and embracing free market economics and welfare reform. The conservative response is to start opening its ranks to the right.

"The Christian Democrats and conservatives show no shame anymore in cooperating with rightist movements," sneered Germany's Claudia Roth, president of the Green group in Europe's parliament. "They should think twice about whether they really want to open their doors for the allies of Italy's post-fascists."

The first fruit of the new alliance on the right came last week, in that extraordinary vote when the Europe Parliament rejected a bland motion which praised Tony Blair's stewardship of the UK Presidency of the EU Council. Berlusconi's votes provided the right's margin of victory. The Forza Italia MEPs said they had been persuaded to vote the resolution down because the section on employment policy was too "leftist".

The irony is that while the right may be hnddling together for fear that they are losing the political battles, they appear to have won the wider war. The massive progamme of budget restraint to qualify for the single currency has amounted to a kind of Europe-wide Thatcherisation by the back door.

Tony Blair and his European siblings now embrace a fiscal rigour and free market ideology that sometimes puts them to the right of Helmut Kohl. So the conservatives collectively delude themselves that their salvation lies in abandoning the political centre and embracing the wilder shores of the right.

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Picking the right team

Next step: find a project

THERE was only room for 22 in the squad, so the boss had to choose carefully. Of course he wanted a blend of youth and experience, doughty veterans at the back, sparkling performers attacking up front. That meant dropping those who were off form and out of condition — controversial perhaps, but William Hague did what he had to.

Unlike Glenn Hoddle, the Conservative leader managed to pack a few laughs into the team selection he announced yesterday. Who can resist the delicious prospect of Ann Widdecombe sharing the shadow cabinet table with her former boss at the Home Office, Michael Howard — of whom she famously detected "something of the night"? The pair were always the oddest of odd couples; now these two members of British politics' Addams Family will be colleagues once more. Equally amusing is Mr Hague's heralding of "new talented faces": enter Sir Norman Fowler as shadow home secretary, Cecil Parkinson as caretaker chairman till October and Michael Ancram as his designated successor. To be fair, Mr Hague has made good his promise to infuse fresh blood into the Tory body politic. And yet the most likely reaction to the elevation of Gary Streeter, Peter Ainsworth and Liam Fox will be: who they?

Nevertheless, in equal contrast with Mr Hoddle, Mr Hague is not looking for instant success from his new line-up — or at least he shouldn't be. He is embarked on a long haul, one that's unlikely to yield results much before the next election. For now the minimum task is to keep his party together and to fire accurate, oppositional darts at the Government. Yesterday's reshuffle should help make that possible.

Mr Hague has sought unity by picking colleagues in his own image, located on the pragmatic centre-right. Those who are not theologically Euro-sceptic are at least Eurowary: that should prevent the fatal divisions over Europe that did so much damage to John Major. Indeed, it's a testament to how much times have changed in today's Conservative Party that the old calculations — weighing up which of the warring camps on Europe had prospered — seemed rather irrelevant yesterday. There might be a slight tilt rightward — with Mr Streeter the only backer of Kenneth Clarke in the entire pack — but the Major era's talk of "bastards" and the like has vanished. The Parliamentary Conservative Party is too small and its deliberations too marginal for such splits to matter these days.

Mr Hague's other objective — to assemble a force more capable of attack on the Government — has also come closer with yesterday's selections. Ms Widdecombe has proved a ferocious performer in the Commons, rattling Tony Blair during Question Time and railing against most of her fellow Tories in support of anti-foxhunting bill. She should be a formidable tormentor of Frank Dobson at health. Francis Maude is quieter and more forensic than Ms Widdecombe, but is bound to outperform his querulous predecessor as shadow chancellor, Peter Lilley. David "Two Brains" Willetts adds a bit of cerebral firepower to the Tory war-machine.

All this will help in the immediate business of opposition, at which Mr Hague's party has performed feebly. But the larger, task remains. The Conservatives have to do what Labour did after its successive election defeats: return to first principles and construct a body of ideas that could serve as a new political project. The appointment of Mr Lilley as deputy leader and unofficial "minister for thought" might be a step on the way. But it is too large a burden for one man: the entire right-wing of British politics will have to share in the task.

Free speech?

Urgent repairs needed

THIS past few months has seen a troupe of distinguished American lawyers and journalists flying to London to help us sort out the mess we have got into with the laws affecting freedom of expression. They already knew our laws were bad: American courts have been reluctant to enforce English libel judgments since a 1992 judgment which found that our laws were "antipathetical to the protection afforded the press by the US Constitution". Even so, the Americans have gawped in disbelief as the finer points of domestic contempt, defamation, harassment and data protection legislation have been explained to them. They have marvelled at the lack of constitutional protection for free speech. They have flown back home shaking their heads at the quiescence of the British journalistic establishment over a sorry state of affairs.

This benign interest in our laws is not purely altruistic. American publishers and editors have become increasingly alarmed at the trend for "forum shopping" whereby London has become the favoured capital of the world for anyone thinking of pursuing a libel case. In London there is no First Amendment. The burden of proof is on the publication, not the plaintiff. Rich litigants can dispose of juries if they think they will do better without them. And, perhaps most crucially of all, there is virtually no protection for newspapers which publish material which can legitimately be shown to be in the public interest — loosely, the concept of qualified privilege. The famous 1964 judgment of *Sullivan vs New York Times* protected newspapers which could show that they were writing about matters about which the public deserved to know, providing the plaintiff could not demonstrate malice. It is a judgment which, in one form of another, has been adopted in most enlightened democracies. Only England has remained a Sullivan-free zone.

That is why an Appeal Court case starting today before the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, is so crucially important. The case is an appeal from the 1996 libel trial in which the former Irish *Taoiseach*, Albert Reynolds, won 1p libel damages from the Sunday Times over a story headlined: "Goodbye Gombeen man. Why a fib too far proved fatal." At its heart lies the ability of newspapers and broadcasters freely, robustly and fairly to report on people in public life without the fear of being sued. There can be few issues more central to the health of a democracy. A ruling which extended the reach of qualified privilege in this country would not sweep away all the iniquities of the English libel law, but it would be a powerful signal to the rest of the world that our judges have begun to recognise that we have a problem.

Gazzaless future

Fitness is vital in Hoddle squad

GLENN HODDLE'S espousal of youth in ascent rather than genius in decline was backed by most opinion polls yesterday but England's manager knows full well that his decison to dump Paul Gascoigne will stand or fall on England's performance on the field. His departure is as much a commentary on what has been happening to football in recent years as on Gazza himself. The pace of the game is now so great it demands athleticism of the highest order. No longer — except in its dreams — can the nation wait until our faded, unfit hero steps out of Boy's Own magazine to score the goal that brings the World Cup back home. It is seductive to argue the case for including him in the squad as a morale-boosting, wild card even if he is unlikely to play, or of hoping that his experience will unexpectedly produce a moment of magic.

But in the calculus of probability, the English manager has done the only thing he could do after showing quite extraordinary patience with the wayward talent under his guardianship. England has under one of the cent of the world's population and has no Divine Right to succeed in the most fiercely contested team event in the world (even though football has turned out to be one of our most successful exports). This contest will be decided by skill, fitness, determination, leadership and luck (Hand-of-God or whatever).

Hoddle has to believe that every member of his talented — but not yet earth-shattering — squad is capable of going the full potential distance: seven exhausting games of 90 minutes each. In this context Gazza's departure has a predictably tragic quality about it, a demigod brought down by flaws in his character. Hoddle said that after he had informed Gazza and the others who had been dropped, he went into the next room and saw television pictures of the earthquake in Afghanistan which, he said, put everything into perspective. If only it would.

Letters to the Editor

Trailers and aural pollution

I WONDER if Catherine Bennett (Trailer trash, May 30) has considered how the timing of Radio 4's risible "trailers" coincides quite neatly with those on BBC TV and "real" adverts on commercial TV. What a handy way to get us poor saps used to the sound of commercials on Radio 4 — might oot even notice! Still, only the most paranoid of listeners would consider such a thing. Wouldn't they?
M A McAuslan.
Blagdon,
North Somerset.

THE recent visit by the Japanese emperor to Cardiff Castle proved somewhat embarrassing. At the exact moment that the Emperor's entourage was passing the protesting POWs at Cardiff Castle, the colonel in charge ordered the old soldiers to about-turn. Unfortunately, he failed to notice that the soldiers already had their backs to the emperor. Faced with the old enemy, the POWs did not know which way to turn.
Adrian Jarvis.
Manchester.

I READ with interest Laura Thompson's article claiming that "women and sport" is no longer an issue since the doors have been opened to "the ladies" over the last decade (Better to leave the babes in the woodwork, May 26). She nearly had me convinced until I noticed that her piece sat in splendid isolation amongst four pages devoted almost entirely to men's sport (football, golf, cricket, rugby league) written by 11 male reporters.
Wendy Owen.
Little Neston,
South Wirral.

YOU report that this year has seen "a renaissance in the popularity of classical music" and list a "classical top 10" (June 1). This list includes Titanic — James Horner; Paul McCartney's Standing Stone; Songs of Sanctuary — Adiemus and Salva Nos — Mediaeval Babes. Since these are all examples of blatant 20th century pastiche, I wonder who decided to stretch the meaning of "classical" to hitherto unknown limits?
Michael Hutton.
London.

I HAVE a 1924 Webster's New International Dictionary which says that "jejune" means "empty" or "void of substance" or "void of interest or satisfaction" (Letters, May 29). Also, it says that jejune is not derived from jejunum, but both are derived from the Latin jejunus meaning empty or dry. It goes on to say that jejunum is the middle division of the small intestine and is so called because it was formerly supposed to be empty on death.
Tony Kirkland.
Edinburgh.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address or a truncated address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

What next: Crying Spice?

GLEN Hoddle's decision to eliminate Gateshead-born Paul Gascoigne from his World Cup squad can only be described as pure madness (Gascoigne bites the dust, June 1). Without the Geordie genius and his irreplaceable magic, Hoddle has removed the one glimmer of hope from this all-round average side.

Gascoigne's off-field antics, fighting of the flab and frequent injury problems have caused a great deal of concern for the fans as well as the trail of managers he has left in his stride over the last 15 years: even father figures, Walter Smith and Terry Venables, admitted total frustration at times. These weaknesses aside, the Middlesbrough star's genius oo the pitch canoot be denied. Without his input, success on the international stage becomes all the more unlikely.

Gascoigne's vision, focus and skill are unquestionable and his presence on the bench is vital if a disastrous game is to be sufficiently revived. He may not be tha most suitable role model, but ha is certainly one of the best forwards Britain has ever seen — arguably the best since the demise of Besty and Sir Bobby.

Gleo Hoddle's lack of judgment may well be the final nail in England's coffin.
Julia Hamilton.
Tyne & Wear.

THE two defining news stories of the weekend — Geri and Gazza's exclusions from their respective "teams" — have one thing in common: Chris Evans. Gazza's recent kebab and beer binge, and speculation that Geri is being offered a job at Ginger Productions, lead us to wonder whether Evans has a hand in the demise of the popular cultures he claims to represent?
Steven Cummins.
Peter Seaman.
Glasgow.

WHEN I opened my Guardian, I thought the Sun had been delivered by mistake. I hardly consider "Gazza gets the boot" and "Ginger quits the Spice Girls" to be a compelling read over my breakfast table.
Hugh Gemmell.
Leicester.

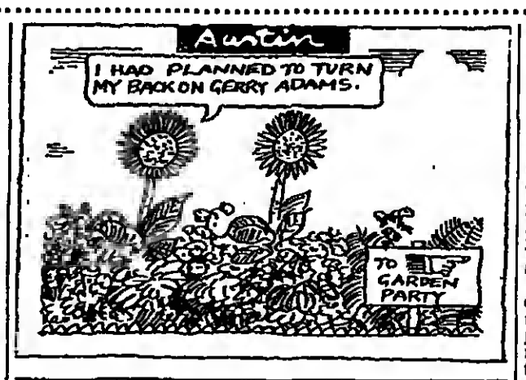
POP culture has always been sneered at by so-called intellectuals but at least the Spice Girls don't oeed a Lottery grant so that lots of over-dressed and overfed "music lovers" can go and bear them perform at Covent Garden.
Drew Gray.
Abington,
Northampton.

SO THE team is expected to cooquer the world without the talents of the overweight one whose brilliant but erratic performances have given us so much in recent years? I'm gutted — Geri was always my favourite Spice Girl.
Jed Hardy.
London.

GOODBYE Ginger Spice, bello Gazza Spice?
Christopher Pootac.
London.

OR maybe Crying Spice?
Martin W Smith.
Wirral,
Merseyside.

The Country Diary is on Page 16



Making the office work for parents

WELL dooe Decca Aitkenhead (Women aren't the only ones who are overworked. Everybody is, May 29). It is time we opened up the discussion to enable men to take more part in family activities. This would not only enrich their lives but take some of the burden off women. Many meo do want to escape from the long-hours syndrome but feel unable to demand job sharing, reduced hours and employment breaks in the way that women do.

Women have been able to use the sex discrimination laws to obtain flexible arrangements after having children. Men generally cannot do this. A law allowing anyone to work part-time if they so choose is oeeded. Introducing parental leave on a paid basis would be another incentive. It might even be possible to share around some of the long hours worked to benefit the unemployed.
Margaret Ohern.
London.

DECCA Aitkenhead put her finger on the spot when she asked: "how is it that news of a working parent resigning to spend time with the family is a womeo's issue?" I'd guess that in nine out of 10 cases, it's the mother who searches for a childminder and plans ahead to put their child's name oo a nursery waiting list. Men don't worry about installing CCTV to assess the carer's qualities because their partner's sixth sense is already working overtime.
Charlotte Pearson.
London.

WHAT a disappointment — another article about working mothers where all the women interviewed talk about "choosing" to work full- or part-time or not at all (Father Time and mother courage, May 28). I would have loved to take six months' maternity leave when my daughters were born, but I simply couldn't afford to take the 75 per cent pay cut once I'd used up my statutory 13 weeks — and I work for the civil service, whose maternity arrangements are more generous than many.

My only "choice", other than returning to work full-time, was to throw myself on the mercy of the benefits system, probably being forced to leave my childreo's father, who takes home enough to make it not worth his while becoming a house-husband but not enough to support us all, even if I tcok a night job stacking shelves in Tesco, like one of your interviewees.
Name and address supplied.

THIRTY years ago, I worked a 35-hour week. Now I work at least 50 hours a week, often more, and my standard of living is not appreciably better. (Of course, I'm lucky to have a job at my age.)
L R Armstrong.
Portsmouth.

Mr Smith doesn't go to Halifax to put his bum on a seat

AS A LABOUR voter and practising artist I was bemused and annoyed by Chris Smith's defence of his book and attitude to the arts (As T S Elint said, May 29). Once again we are treated to his disturbingly one-sided view of how the arts (and which of the arts) are good for you.

He needs to look mucb more closely at creating access to the arts by *doing* — real people making art they can relate to and own — rather than offering tantalising glimpses of the "high arts" via one-off cheap ticket schemes.

The clear message which rings through is that, far from wanting to create access to the arts, be wants to put bums on seats for reasons economic. The "enriching experiences" he cites (art, music and traditional theatre) are only a small part of the way lives need to be touched to create an awareness of the powers of the arts.

Perhaps he should sit down with the Education Secretary and look at how Labour policies are affecting the arts in schools. If the government continues to under-estimate the enriching experiences offered by the arts in schools, where will audiences and performers of the future come from?

Chris Smith was due to attend a performance by 30 schoolchildren in Halifax recently. Their composition, Metamorphosis, bad been created in three days of workshops with myself. Their sense of pride in this 20-minute music-theatre piece was almost palpable. Mr Smith cancelled his visit at the last minute. Not high enough for you, Chris?
Barry Russell.
Artist-in-Residence,
Bretton Hall,
Wakefield.

AAH. Chris Smith has engaged Bel Littlejohn as his ghost writer. We saw it here first.
Elizabeth Cockerell.
Ely, Cambs.

Book sales get a poor review

THE really offensive part of Ian Mayes's defence of special offers for review books (Selling under review, May 30) is his justification of the practice as a service to readers. As if readers might otherwise have difficulty in obtaining the books through the oormal channels, ie the thousands of eager, existing booksellers in the market place.

Please let us stick to the commercial justification. After all, why shouldn't a newspaper make money from selling review books as long it is strictly independent of the reviews? No reason at all on the face of it.

The trouble is that while the two activities are carried on side by side, one can never be sure that no influence is being brought to bear. At the moment, when the commercial value is relatively small and management is scrupulous, the risk is admittedly negligible. But suppose the revenue from book sales becomes significant, and a later management less nice, the existence of separate organisations for the two activities will be no protection.

Influence can be exercised very effectively in subtle and untraceable ways. A nod is as good as a wink, and much much better than a memo. The only way that readers can be sure that reviews are completely independent is for the newspaper to forego sales of the books concerned.

But as a bookseller myself, I would say that, wouldn't I?
Jeremy Faull.
Tha Wadebridge Bookshop,
Wadebridge,
Cornwall.

First names

WELCOMING and naming a child is for most families an important social ritual which, depending on the beliefs of the parents, may or may not have some religious significance. Certainly, humanist welcoming ceremonies for "new arrivals" have taken place for some time now, long before the advent of the Baby Naming Society, whose approach Matthew Fort correctly represents as "a typical limp fudge" (And remember, a godchild isn't just for Christmas, May 30). Non-believing parents have found them both appropriate and meaningful. And humanist "mentors" have long been around to take the place of godparents.
Nigel Collins.
British Humanist Association,
London.

The best way to stop the growth of nuclear arms is to get rid of our own

SINCE Roy Hattersley purports to enlighten your readers on the meaning of "something called the Simla Agreement" (Endpiece, June 1), it is a pity he doesn't make a better effort to tell them what it is. It was an agreement voluntarily signed by the leaders of India and Pakistan after the third war of aggression launched by Pakistan against India since independence in 1947. Considering the comparative strength of the two countries at that precise moment, it was a generous settlement on India's side and the commitment to ensure that the future of Kashmir was settled through bilateral talks a reasonable one. Hattersley writes mysteriously that "this view is held with various degrees of sincerity in New Delhi". He would find it difficult to discover anyona in Delhi who disagrees.

The ouclear tests unleashed by the two countries in recent weeks are a tragedy for them both, but hardly less so for the world at large. On all previous occasions when India has made a move towards nuclear status, her leaders have proposed at the same time practical, far-reaching proposals for worldwide disarmament of all ouclear arsenals. The most famous of these — as well known at least as the Simla Agreement — was the Delhi Declaration signed by Rajiv Gandhi and Mikhail Gorbachev in 1986. That is the right approach to stop the present madness and start the solution of other problems of the subcontinent, including Kashmir.

Perhaps I might use this occasion to mention that I am writing a book on the subject to be called Dr Strangelove, I Presume. I fear my title may have been pre-empted but the moral still stands. Anyhow, I hope I will finish it in time to stop Roy writing further nonsense on this topic. On several other matters I would be happy to accompany him on a deputation to Downing Street.
Michael Foot.
London.

IT WOULD be a tragedy if the G8 summit in London on June 12 was used only to pour condemnation on India and Pakistan. The only effective response of the West is to make a start on ridding the world of the piles of nuclear arms that are no longer needed. Britain has a unique opportunity to change world history, through its presidency of the EU, its position in G8 and the presence of a foreign secretary and a government committed to multilateral disarmament.
Dr Chris Moss.
London.

THE US AMBASSADOR to the UN, Bill Richardson, was in India just days before the nuclear testing on May 11, apparently missing any clue of what was about to occur, in what the CIA stated was an intelligence black spot. Meanwhile, the UN weapons inspectors continue to run around Iraq searching sites which have included a crèche, an orphanage, Catholic convents and churches. When Iraqi anthorities discussed the invasion of Kuwait with the then US Ambassador, April Glaspie, her reply (July 25, 1990) was reported as: "We have no opinion on Arab-Arab conflicts like your border disagreement with Kuwait." The subsequent devastation and ongoing sanctions are history.

It would be depressing, given the apparently all-embracing knowledge of the CIA and international security services, if Ambassador Richardson was subsequently accused of a parallel conversation with India. However, perhaps the UN weapons inspectors would be more gainfully employed in India and Pakistan?
Felicity Arbuthnot.
London

A CONNECTION must be made — and investigated — between the Indian and Pakistani ouclear tests and the devastating earthquake in Afghanistan soon after.
Dr Michael Atchia.
Programme director,
UNEP (retired)
London.

INTERESTING to read France's condemnation of nuclear tests, bearing in mind events at Mururoa Atoll not so long ago.
Alison Warwick.
Plymouth.

Executive Financial Editor: Ben Clissitt
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FinanceGuardian

Deal a day for Wheat Belt's corn merchant

Combine harvesters . . . The march of gene technology from the lab to the Kansas plains with pesticide-resistant seed is both profitable and controversial FHOTOGRAPH: MONTY DAVIS

Monsanto merger creates a life-sciences monster

Mark Tran in New York

THE rapid consolidatioo of the global drugs and chemlcals industry quickeoed yesterday when Monsanto, the huge lifesciences corporation, agreed to merge with American Home Products, the pharmaceuticals group left jilted at the altar by the UK's SmithKline Beecham earlier this year.

Tbe deal, effectlvely a reverse takeover of AHP by Monsanio, ranks as the sixth largest in American corporate history.

It is designed to give the merged combine — which will have a market value of $96 billioo — a commanding position in the life-sciences industry, which applies biotechnology to agriculture and bealth, most controversially in the prodoction of geoetically modified foodstuffs.

Monsanto, best known for artificial sweeteoer Nutrasweet, began talks with AHP after the latter was abandooed by SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceuticals manufacturer whicb tbeo turned to Glaxo for merger negotiations, again sbortive.

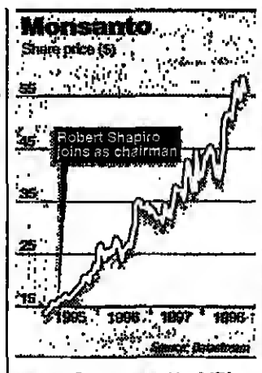
The new group yesterdsy pledged to invest $2.5 billion of its $23 hillioo-a-year revenue in research and development in the quest to discover a new wonder product.

Robert Shapiro, Monsanto boss, and Jack Stafford of AHP will lead the new corporation.

Savings from the merger are expected to be between $1.2 billion and $1.5 hilloo a year but Mr Stafford said: "This new company is based on growth and opportunity. We're committed to cuttingedge science, to developing and marketing great products and to a philosopby of growth and value."

The merger follows a flurry of deals in the pharmaceuticals sector as companies pool their R&D efforts. Novartis, one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies, was created in 1996 as a result of the merger of Sandoz and Ciba-Geigy. AHP beld talks in Jaouary witb SmitbKlioe Beecham oo a merger that woold have created the world's largest prescriptioo drug company.

Monsanto, based io St Louis Missouri, has beeo an aggressive deal-maker under Mr Shapiro, who has beeo called a "deal-a-day" man. Last mootb the compaoy bought the remaining 60 per cent of DeKalb Genetics Corporatioo, a seed corn company, for some $2.3 hillion, and announced plans to buy Delta & Pine Land, a leading producer of cottoo seed.



Moosanto requires large amouots of casb for its $2 billion GD Searle drugs division. GD Searle bas a full pipeline of products ready to hit the market and competes sgaiost compaoies maoy times its size and resources.

Because it is up against mucb larger rivals, Monsanto has been interested in teaming up with an ally and held talks with DuPoot before deciding oo AHP, which is spending £1 billion oo a biotechnology research programme. Even that is substantially less than most major competitors. Novartis spent $1.9 hilloo oo R&D in 1997, while Glaxo Wellcome spent $1.8 hillion.

AHP's drug-making division, Wyeth-Ayest Laboratories, was founded in 1860 when John and Frank Wyeth opened a drugstore in Philadelphia. The group expanded into other related industry until 1996 when it sold 80 per cent of its food services division for $1.2 hillion to concentraie solely on its pharmaceutical business.

But despite s wide product range — AHP manufactures products sucb as Advil, a painkiller, Rohltussin cough syrup and Centrum vitamins — it has a recent history of product mishaps.

It faces thousands of lawsuits from womeo who began using the Norplant contraceptive device in 1996 and then complained that the company failed adequately to warn of side-effects such as depressioo and ovarian cysts.

More recently, legal action has beeo threatened over the reported side-effects of a slimmiog product whicb was withdrawn from the market last autumo. That could result in liabilities of up to $4 billion, but AHP is said to have product liability insurance cover of only $1 billion.

Profile: Monsanto

MONSANTO'S work on genetically modified plants has caused controversy about whether pesticide-resistant genes could "leak" to other plants or whether genetically modified crops might produce unexpected results.

When Robert Shapiro took over as chairman and chief executive three years ago, Monsanto spanned chemicals, pharmaceuticals, agricultural products and food ingredients. The share price languished just above $10.

He made it a highly focused life sciences group looking to play a key role in applying gene technology to agriculture. The share price has soared.

The chemicals business, spun off under the Solutia banner has gone, replaced by seed production and distribution companies. Last month Monsanto bought 60 per cent of DeKalb genetics and cotton seed producer Delta & Pine Land, taking Monsanto's spending in the sector to $6billion in three years. — *Mark Milner*

Profile: AHP

ONE of the driving forces behind AHP's inclination towards a merger is believed to be an impending succession crisis at the top of the group where Jack Stafford rules as chairman, president and chief executive.

Although AHP has sales of about £9 billion and profits of more than £1 billion, the group has hit turbulence with the threat of lots of lawsuits over its slimming drug, Redux, which had to be withdrawn from the market last September.

Some analysts have estimated that the bill for this legal action could run as high as $4 billion and high-profile actions absorb a damaging amount of management time.

That was thought to have been one of the factors which helped cool Britain's SmithKline Beecham's ardour when merger talks with AHP collapsed earlier this year.
— *Lisa Buckingham*

Notebook

Genetics argues against Godzilla

Edited by Mark Milner

AMERICAN Home Products and Monsanto became the latest corporate converts to the Godzilla theory yesterday. It is straightforward enough. As the billboards promoting the eponymous film have been telling the US puhlic for months, "Size does matter".

The rationale is familiar. The world in which the two companies operate is becoming more competitive, bringing new prodocts to market is becoming more expensive. So size counts.

In s way, AHP had admitted it lacked critical mass when it started merger talks with SmithKline Beecham, only to be left at the altar when SKB opened similar, and equally unsuccessful, negotiations with Glaxo Wellcome. Monsanto, for its part, is big in plant genetics but is reckooed too small to steer a promising pharmacenticals pipeline through the regulatory process and then provide effective marketing clout.

Their alliance looks set to start another wave of merger speculation. Merchant bankers looking for fat fees will no doubt tout the benefits of links involving any two of (say) DuPont, Novartis, Rhôoe-Poulenc, Hoechst or Zeneca.

Managements of any or all of the above ought to proceed with caution. Big mergers are not bound to succeed. Nor is size everything. In whizzier technologies — not least human genetics — some drugs companies are building links with small, entrepreneurial outfits, seeking to meld the creative spark of the unconventional and informal with the clout and staying power of hig business without crushing the former underfoot.

Godzilla has been hrought io cinema screens on the back of tremendous hype. As ooe Guardian critic noted, however: "What's disheartening is how enormously it falls short of expectations." Ii may become a tale of our time.

Nuclear fallout

CRISIS, what crisis? The Bank for International Settlements' latest commeotary on events in the world's financial sector in the first quarter, has a determinedly upbeat tooe. Clearly those involved in markets outside Asia are firm believers in the silver-lining-of-clouds theory.

As the BIS ootes, the "flight to quality" kept bond yields at historical lows, equity markets on both sides of the Atlantic hit record levels and there was a record issue of international debt securities. There has, it seems, seldom beeo a better time to be a blue-chip borrower with a big appetite. The architects of European monetary unioo will view the latest data with particular pleasure. Euro-denominated debt roared ahead. The euro may not yet have arrived but the market for euro-debt clearly has.

Whether its next quarterly report shows the global financial sector in equally sanguine mood is open to doubt, however. The economic consequences of last year's Asian markets meltdown are beginning to be felt. Hong Kong is heading for recession. Unemployment in Japan is running at a post-war record — this in a society which cherishes "jobs for life". South Korean firms are cutting costs and sacking workers. In finance ministries around the world, fingers are tightly crossed that China will not be forced into a devaluation. To show the crisis is not an Asian preserve, the same could be said of Russia. Pressure on the rouble is growing.

As if that were not enough, Asia has been hit by the kind of event that banks' risk assessment schemes find hard to measure — nuclear testing by India and Pakistan which has (at best) raised regional tensions and left both countries facing sanctions. The Indian currency bas fallen sharply, in Pakistan share prices have nosedived — falling almost 10 per cent in value yesterday.

As one Karachi broker said, plaintively, of his country's nuclear test: "That's a very expensive bomb." Not just for Pakistan. If it helps trigger another outbreak of Asian contagion, the $850 million wiped of the Karachi stock market yesterday may prove to be only a fraction of the full price.

Late arrival

A MONTH or so ago, when the Bank of England's monetary policy committee was evenly split, the arrival of the ninth and final member would have been a big event. John Vickers's vote would have been enough to sway the outcome of a meeting in either direction.

As it is, the 39-year-old Oxford academic's entrance on to the monetary stage is an anti-climax. Leaving aside the unexpected blip upwards in average earnings in February, the bulk of recent economic figures point to a slowdown in growth and an easing of inflationary pressures, suggesting that all nine MPC members will sooo come round to the prevailing market view that rstes bave peaked at 7.25 per cent.

Stripped of conflict, the next four or five meetings could become boringly predictable.

However, the drama is likely to return towards the end of the year when the committee begins debating the merits of interest rate cuts in avoiding recession. As a Bank careerist rather than an outside member of the committee, Mr Vickers may decide to vote with the Governor, wbo has been displaying uncharacteristically doveish tendencies of late. To start with, at least.

India boosts arms bill as Pakistan extends its budget cuts

Suzanne Goldenberg in Islamabad, Jonathan Watts in Tokyo and Mark Milner in London report on the gloom spreading across Asia

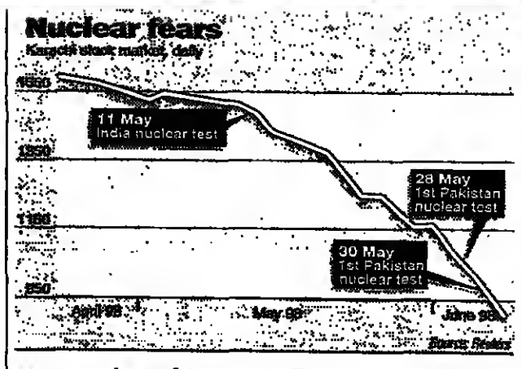
INDIA and Pakistan yesterday moved to bolster ailing economies already facing sanctions imposed in the wake of their testing of nnclear weapons earlier this month.

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led government unveiled a 14 per cent increase in defence spending as well as more money for nnclear energy and India's infrastructure.

In Pakistan, where the Karachi stock market fell almost 10 per ceot yesterday, government officials revealed plans for even more sweeping austerity measures. The government was poised to halve non-development spending, according to Islamabad's information minister Mushahid Hussein.

In New Delhi the Hindu nationalist-led government said the bndget package would revive India's economic growth, which slipped to 5 per cent in the fiscal year 1997-98, the lowest rate in the last five years.

Finance minister Yashwant Sinha promised to reduce red tape which foreign investors say hampers doing business in India and also piedged to sell stakes in Indian Airlines, a number of state-controlled energy companies and to open up the insurance market.



Pakistan is also hoping to ride out the impact of the sanctions imposed after its nuclear tests at the end of May, though at a price.

Mr Hussein said the government believed Pakistan could withstand their effects and falling investor confidencs for the next year, largely hy asking the entire population to do without.

"A lot of us feel this is a blessing in disguise," he said. "It could help the Pakistani people overcome that psyche of dependeoce which has been the bane of our existence."

He said all Pakistanis would make sacrifices for ths bomh, incinding his own family which is giving up milk in tea.

Diplomats are sceptical that individnal austerity measures can rescue an economy that was frail and corrnpt even before sanctions.

Sentiment was gloomy throughout most of Asia. In Hong Kong, the benchmark Hang Seng index slumped 3.61 per cent following last Friday's annouocement that the territory's economy had shrunk by 2 per cent in the three months through March — its first decline in 13 years.

In Japan — the region's economic engine — stock prices, bond yields and the value of the yen fell on fears abont Asia's deteriorating economic health and new data confirming a slowdown in domestic consumption.

The Nikkei index of the Tokyo stock market slipped 2.23 per cent to 15,321, despite news of a tie-up between Nikko Securites Co, one of Japan's Big Three brokerages, and the US finaucial services giant, Travelers Groop.

Elsewhere the ecooomic turmoil was even more apparent. The Malaysiao bourse lost 3.7 per cent following a report over the weekend that the economy had contracted hy 1.8 per cent in the first quarter. The unexpectedly poor figure undermined the government's 2.5 per csnt growth forecast for this year and raised the spectre of recession.

Similar fears poshed down stock indexes in Thailaud, Taiwan, Singapore and Australia.

In Indonesia, share prices fell by 1.5 per cent as investors unloaded holdings in companies linked to former president Suharto, who was forced from power iast month.

Flextech pair earn £6.5m

Simon Beavis and Chris Barrie

THE two men who head Flextech, tbe pay-TV broadcaster, earned a combined £6.5 million in pay, perks and share-option deals in 1997 — the year when the company scraped into profit for the first time and signed the innovative UKTV deal with the BBC.

Roger Luard, the chief executive who was recently forced to go on extended sick leave and could be paid £3.5 million if he is unable to return to work, was most richly rewarded last year.

He earned £1.05 million in pay, bonuses and pension contributions and cashed in share options worth more than £4.5 million, according to the annual accounts.

The pay package for Mr Luard, widely credited with turning Flextech from an oil services group into a main player in the world of multichannsl TV, included a £699,000 bonus. Of tbis, £250,000 was a special payment for completing the UKTV deal under which Flextech has set up four pay-TV channels using BBC material.

The group chairman, Adam Singer, also had a bumper pay year in 1997. He was paid £963,045 in pay and perks.

A company spokeswoman said that the payments reflected a momentous year for the company which saw it record a net profit of £1.9 million against losses of £15.6 million the year before.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.567	Germany 2.8215	Malaysia 6.269	Singapore 2.89
Austria 19.82	Greece 483.59	Malta 0.62	South Africa 8.19
Belgium 58.09	Hong Kong 12.26	Netherlands 3.1639	Spain 237.99
Canada 2.319	India 67.959	New Zealand 2.98	Sweden 12.46
Cyprus 0.83	Ireland 1.1167	Norway 11.93	Switzerland 2.34
Denmark 10.80	Israel 5.959	Portugal 287.86	Turkey 402,200
Finland 8.649	Italy 2,796	Saudi Arabia 6.00	USA 1.5944
France 9.43			

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Golf

Westwood has sights westwards

Gordon Richardson in Hamburg sees the Briton make it a million in seven months

LEE WESTWOOD nudged his winnings to more than £1 million in seven months with a record-breaking win in the Deutsche Bank-SAP Open at Gut Kaden yesterday.

He followed Sunday's career-best 61 with a 66 for a 23-under-par 265 — by two strokes this season's lowest winning aggregate — to finish a single shot ahead of Darren Clarke, who holed a 40-foot putt at the last for a 68, and four clear of the Masters champion Mark O'Meara.

Clarke, three clear of the pack after a birdie-birdie start, kept fighting and managed four birdies, including two twos, in his last four holes. Westwood wavered with a four at the short 16th where, against his nature, he tried to play a defensive shot, and a hard-earned five at the long 17th after tangling with rough and sand did oot help, but he calmly applied the *coup de grâce* with a 20-foot putt for a birdie three on the final green to pick up the £183,340 first prize.

The 25-year-old with the cheeky grin and a habit of sticking his tongue out when he hits the ball now goes to the US Open at the Olympic Club in San Francisco, from June 18–21, with high hopes of winning his first major.

Yesterday, after completing a superb 17 under par for his last 36 holes, he admitted: "The difference was my putting and the irony is it was awful the first two days.

"Last week in the PGA I played nicely and finished six behind Colin Montgomerie without holing anything — it's the best I've played since my win in New Orleans in April. Darren made my heart jump when he holed that long putt at the last — luckily I expected him to do that and birdied before him.

"I was trying to protect my lead and got a little nervy near the end — I'm better when I'm more aggressive."

O'Meara, whose chance went with a double-bogey six at the 11th after a penalty drop from the bushes, will have a tale to tell when he gets back across the Atlantic after having a close-up of Europe's answer to Tiger Woods. Westwood had swept to the turn in 32, then surged to 23 under par with birdies at the 13th and 15th.

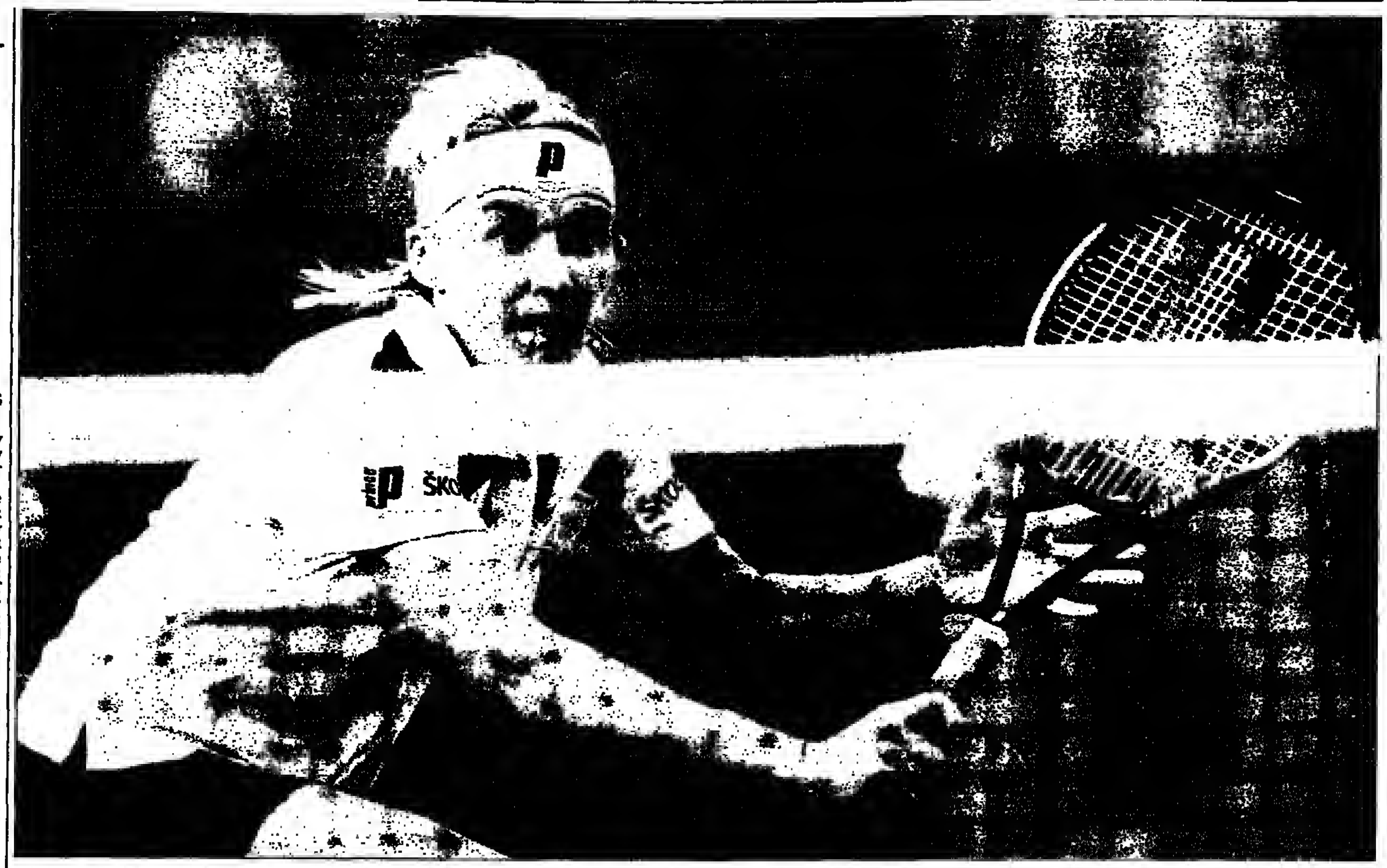
Clarke, after dropping shots at the 6th and 8th, was looking a spent force but the Ulsterman showed his qualities as his storming finish kept the 14,000 crowd on their toes and earned £122,000 to lift himself to fourth in the money list with £290,868 compared to Westwood's £275,299 for sixth place.

Westwood's sights are now firmly on San Francisco. "All my preparations, like losing weight by dieting and exercising, are geared towards the US Open," he said. "I went over and won the week before the Masters and I'll be playing the Buick event in New York before the US Open.

"Then it will be back to Europe and hopefully Darren and I can keep bouncing off each other in the race to finish top money winner.

"We're great mates and have eaten together every night in Hamburg, but we still want to beat the living daylights out of each other."

● Fred Couples shot a final round of 69 to win the PGA Memorial in Dublin, Ohio, by four strokes. Three under par in the final round, he recorded a 72-hole total of 271, 17 under, for his second victory of the year and the 14th of his career. Andrew Magee was second on 275, one better than David Duval. Nick Faldo's 74 gave him a finishing 284.



Back to business . . . Jana Novotna completes a three-set victory over 16-year-old Anna Kournikova at yesterday's French Open after the match was held over because of bad light

Safin dumped from the crest of a wave

Stephen Bierley in Paris sees the Frenchman Cedric Pioline sink the Muscovite

SOMEHOW, despite the defection of Ginger Spice, and the rejection of Gazza, the world managed to keep turning at Roland Garros yesterday. Indeed it was positively in a spin for the young Muscovite Marat Safin.

Leading by two sets to one against France's Cedric Pioline, Safin had visions of a quarter-final place in this his first French Open.

Indeed at one point, his confidence high, he joined in the Mexican wave that shimmered around the centre court not long after the Brazilian striker Ronaldo had entered the President's box. It was carnival time. Or so Safin hoped.

But Pioline, the runner-up at Wimbledon last year, and a beaten finalist in the US Open in 1993, responded to adversity with some brilliant clay court tennis, notably his ripping backhand, to win 7–5, 4–6, 6–7, 6–4, 6–4 amid tumultuous applause. Safin's time will come.

Hicham Arazi, Pioline's next opponent, is acknowledged as one of the most talented players on the men's circuit. From the moment he won the first set against Spain's Alberto Berasategui yesterday with the most delicious of forehand drop shots (seeming to hitch up his shorts halfway through the shot) the force was with the 24-year-old Moroccan and he duly won 6–2, 6–4, 3–6, 6–3.

Alex Corretja became the third Spaniard to reach the last eight, and was no doubt thankful, after his marathon against Argentina's Hernan Gumy, of a straight-sets victory over Australia's Jason Stoltenberg.

Corretja now plays Belgium's Filip Dewulf, an even more unlikely semi-finalist in Paris last year. Dewulf clearly has a penchant for the French Open which defies all other form, and had an equally comfortable win over Spain's Francisco Clavet.

There had been overnight unfinished business in the women's fourth round which ended with wins for Iva Majoli and Jana Novotna — together with much talk of bathrooms.

To explain: Anna Kournikova, unable to persuade the umpire to stop her match against Novotna the previous evening because of indifferent light, and trailing 4–2 in the final set, had tried to invoke the bathroom break but was refused.

The 16-year-old was so upset — or enraged at not getting her own way — that the tears flowed, although yesterday she claimed to have had something wrong with her eyes, as opposed to the umpire's ears.

The cold light of morning saw Novotna complete a 6–7, 6–3, 6–3 win, but then spring to the defence of Kournikova's rights, as did Majoli.

Two bathroom breaks may be taken per match "when necessary", and are frequently used to upset the rhythm of opponents. But Novotna insisted: "If the rules are there and you know how to use them then why not? You have to do everything you can to win a match."

Majoli, level at one set all against Spain's Conchita Martinez overnight, rediscovered a little of last year's title form to also reach today's quarter-finals. "If I had been in Anna's position last night I would have called the referee and said: 'You want me to pee on court?'"

Perish the thought.

Racing

Croco Rouge stays at home

Graham Rock

CROCO ROUGE, runner-up to stable companion Dream Well in the Prix du Jockey Club at Chantilly on Sunday, was an absentee from the 16 horses declared for the Vodafone Derby on Saturday.

It had been suggested immediately after the Classic that Pascal Bary's colt would turn out again at Epsom, but his trainer has ruled out a quick reappearance.

"He is fine this morning, but it would be stupid to run a horse like that twice in six days. His next race will be the Grand Prix de Paris at Longchamp on 21 June, and Dream Well will run next in the Irish Derby," Bary said.

Saratoga Springs, fourth at Chantilly, is among three runners declared by Aidan O'Brien. King Of Kings and Second Empire are expected to work at Ballydoyle this morning before the champion Irish trainer declares his hand. Michael Kinane will choose his mount after he has partnered both colts at exercise.

"Saratoga Springs is fine after his trip to Paris, and you could not discount him going to Epsom," O'Brien said. At a pre-Derby lunch held on the racecourse yesterday, all the major bookmakers thought that the Irish 2,000 Guineas third, Second Empire, would start favourite for the big race if O'Brien elected to run. He is available at 2–1.

Jamie Spencer will keep the ride on Tarascon in the Vodafone Oaks on Friday; the 17-year-old apprentice won the Irish 1,000 Guineas on Tommy Stack's filly last month. Tarascon is already lodged at Epsom, but her chances will not be helped by the forecast rain.

Contrastingly, Cloud Castle was not suited by the fast ground when well behind Tarascon at The Curragh, and in anticipation of some cut in the ground, Clive Brittain's filly was backed yesterday from 10–1 to 5–1 with Ladbrokes for the fillies' Classic.

Brittain will match his tough and consistent Luso against the likes of Swain and Silver Patriarch in the Coronation Cup on Friday.

"I wasn't able to give him all the work I wanted when he came back from Dubai, and he was about 10 kilos over when he ran in France. He's in good form now, and back to his ideal racing weight," enthused the trainer.

At the Epsom lunch no trainer was more confident of victory this weekend than Barry Hills, who saddles High and Low in the Oaks. "It isn't a two-horse race," he said, referring to the favourites Bahr and Midnight Line. "This is one of the best fillies I have ever trained and she will go very close."

Derby acceptors
Border Arrow I Balding 9-0 R Cochrane
City Honours S bin Suroor 9-0 J Reid
Courteous P Cole 9-0 T Quinn
Greek Dance M Stoute 9-0 W R Swinburn
Gulland G Wragg 9-0 M Hills
Haami J Dunlop 9-0 R Hills
High-Rise L Cumani 9-0 O Peslier
King Of Kings A O'Brien 9-0 —
Mutamam A Stewart 9-0 —
Pegaltz C Brittain 9-0 —
Sadian H Cecil 9-0 K Fallon
Saratoga Springs A O'Brien 9-0 —
Second Empire A O'Brien 9-0 —
Sunshine Street N Meade 9-0 —
The Glow-Worm B Hills 9-0 D Holland
Cape Verdi S bin Suroor 8-9 L Dettori
Betting: 2–1 Second Empire, 3–1 Cape Verdi, 9-2 Greek Dance, 8–1 King Of Kings, 9–1 City Honours, 10–1 Gulland, 12–1 Haami, 16–1 Border Arrow.

Trainer watch

Horses having their first run for a new trainer today — **Pontefract:** 4.15 O' Higgins, R Boss to O Morris; 5.15 Above Board, B Hills to J Hanson.

KEEPING TRACK
0891 222 +

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
PONTEFRACT	771	781
BRIGHTON	772	782

ALL COURSES COMMENTARY 0891 222 780
ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 222 790
CALLS COST 50P PER MIN AT ALL TIMES. TIS PLC, AVALON HOUSE, LONDON EC2A 4PJ.
The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Pontefract Jackpot card with form guide

	GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.45	Dashiba	Dashiba
3.15	Profiler	Classic Manoeuvre (nap)
3.45	Dark Green	Nigel's Lad
4.15	Moving Princess	Jolie's Jewel
4.45	Bint St James	Majestic Hills
5.15	Quiz Show (nap)	Quiz Show (nb)

Left-handed, undulating course of 2m with run-in of just over 2f.
Going: Good to firm. ★ Denotes blinkers. ● Top form rating.
Draw: Low numbers favoured in 2.45 and 5.15.
Long distance travellers: Flow By (4.15) and Majestic Hills (4.45) J Dunlop, Sussex, 236 miles.
Seven day winners: 3.45 Nigel's Lad.
Blinkered first time: None. **Visored:** None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing

2.45 E.B.F. THORNE MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 2YO
6f £3,916 (11 declared)

101 (9)		Aunt Flo M Bell 8-11	M Fenton	—
102 (8)	22	Bollin Rita (10) T Easterby 8-11	L Charnock	88
103 (3)		Born Free P Cole 8-11	T Quinn	—
104 (6)	64260	Calico Lady (10) M Kemp 8-11	L Dettori	—
105 (11)	3	Dashiba (10) D Elsworth 8-11	K Fallon	●90
106 (2)	3	Entropy (10) R Hannon 8-11	J Carroll	86
107 (10)	0	Fancy That (20) B Hills 8-11	M Hills	—
108 (5)	00	Naughty Lady (20) C Fairhurst 8-11	T Williams	—
109 (7)	2	Leave It To Me (17) S Woods 8-11	M R Swinburn	88
110 (4)	0	Otterington Girl (33) Miss S Hall 8-11	A McGlone	—
111 (1)	0	Pridewary (28) A Bailey 8-11	J Weaver	—

Betting: 7–4 Dashiba, 9–2 Leave It To Me, 8–1 Born Free, 7–1 Bollin Rita, 8–1 Entropy, 10–1 Fancy That, 12–1 Aunt Flo.

FORM GUIDE - Bollin Rita: Dwelt, headway 2f out, challenged entering final furlong, soon ridden, one pace, 2nd of 7, 2l behind Kanisal, with Entropy (levels) 3rd, btn 5l, behind Kanisal at Haydock 5f mdn fls, Gd-Sft. Calico Lady: Led over 2f, lost place over 2f out, last of 7, 25l behind Atlantic Destiny at York 6f mdn, Gd. Dashiba: Ridden over 2f, edged right, headway final furlong, ran on, better for race, 3rd of 7, 1l behind Golden Silica at Newbury 5f fls, Gd-Fm. Fancy That: Tracked leaders, pushed along 3f out, weakened approaching final furlong, 9th of 10, 11l behind Kostaway at Doncaster 5f nov, Gd-Fm. Naughty Lady: Slowly into stride, hung badly left from halfway, last of 10, 15l behind Bollin Lad at Newcastle 5f mdn auct, Gd-Sft. Leave It To Me: Chased leaders, hard ridden and stayed on final furlong, 2nd of 7, ½l behind H Nicky at Newmarket 6f mdn fls, Gd-Fm. Otterington Girl: Started slowly, always behind, 14th of 15, 26l behind Angie Baby at Redcar 5f mdn auct, Sft. Pridewary: Slowly into stride, always outpaced, 7th of 10, 9l behind Denaille at Chester 5f mdn fls, Gd-Fm.

3.15 GROUNDSTAFF MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
1m 2f £3,745 (13 declared)

201 (7)	0	Baranglie (40) W Jarvis 9-0	R Hind	—
202 (4)		Brigade Charge L Cumani 9-0	O Urbina	—
203 (11)	4420-4	Classic Manoeuvre (10) R Hannon 9-0	M Hills	●90
204 (3)		Ellesmere T Easterby 9-0	J Weaver	—
205 (8)	0-	Kallie Edge (223) M Stoute 9-0	M R Swinburn	—
206 (2)		Marcus Maximus H Cecil 9-0	M Ryan	—
207 (3)	2	Profiler (14) H Cecil 9-0	K Fallon	86
208 (13)		Reveurlito Mrs M Reveley 9-0	A Culhane	—
209 (10)	60-000	Surprise Present (15) R Hannon 9-0	T Quinn	83
210 (6)	00	Zalim (7) R Armstrong 9-0	G Carter	79
211 (1)		Mala Mrs J Cecil 8-9	J Carroll	—
212 (12)	3	Rose Of Sheab (10) L Cumani 8-9	L Dettori	89
213 (5)	0	Scald (10) J Wainwright 8-9	Dean McKeown	—

Betting: 5-2 Profiler, 4-1 Classic Manoeuvre, 5-1 Rose Of Sheab, 8-1 Marcus Maximus, 7-1 Kallie Edge, 12-1 Brigade Charge, Mala.

FORM GUIDE - Baranglie: Slowly into stride, effort halfway, soon beaten, last of 10, well behind Capri at Newmarket 1m4f mdn, Gd-Sft. Classic Manoeuvre: Tracked leaders, hard ridden and one pace approaching final furlong, 4th of 12, 4l behind Legal Lunch at Haydock 1m3f mdn, Gd-Sft. Kallie Edge: Never better than mid-division, 7th of 13, 17l behind Mitbah at Yarmouth 7f mdn, Gd. Profiler: Always prominent, chased winner final 2f, kept on well, 2nd of 17, 4l behind Forest Ending at Beverley 1m2f mdn, Gd-Fm. Surprise Present: Some headway over 2f out, soon ridden and weakened, 15th of 16, 11l behind Its May at Windsor 5f hcap, Gd-Fm. Zalim: Ridden over 2f out, never nearer, 8th of 16, 18l behind Dancing Phantom at Sandown 1m2f mdn, Gd-Sft. Rose Of Sheab: Headway final 2f, never nearer, 3rd of 17, 15l behind Mignonette at Windsor 1m mdn fls, Gd-Fm. Scald: Always behind, last of 20, 32l behind Gymcrak Premiere at Ripon 1m sell, Gd.

3.45 TONY BETHELL MEMORIAL HANDICAP
2m 1f 22yds £4,308 (10 declared)

301 (8)	0560-1	Nigel's Lad (6) (6lb ex) (CD) P Haslam 6-10-1	J Weaver	●90
302 (2)	225-40	Dark Green (23) P Cole 4-10-0	T Quinn	85
303 (7)	0-5105	Star Rage (8) M Johnston 8-10-0	D Holland	88
304 (1)	10-224	Onefourseven (18) (BF) J Eyre 5-9-5	W R Swinburn	87
305 (10)	41-661	Unchanged (18) J A Harris 6-9-3	K Fallon	89
306 (5)	39410-	Great Oration (251) (CD) F Watson 9-9-2	J Fortune	82
307 (9)	101532	Monfari (18) R Hollinshead 7-9-1	A McCarthy (3)	84
308 (3)	0-4336	Sea Freedom (18) G Balding 7-8-13	S Brown ★	85
309 (6)	6000-4	Mashan Raider (8) K Hogg 8-8-8	Dean McKeown	84
310 (4)	0550-0	Saltus Maker (11) M Meagher 4-7-10	Dale Gibson ★	79

Betting: 9-4 Nigel's Lad, 11-2 Sea Freedom, 8-1 Onefourseven, 13-2 Nadad, 7-1 Star Rage, Unchanged, 10-1 Dark Green.

FORM GUIDE - Nigel's Lad: Tracked leaders, led 2f out, ran on well, eased towards finish, beating Astro Lines by 3l at Ripon 2m hcap, Gd. Dark Green: Tracked leaders, every chance over 2f out, soon ridden, gradually weakened, 7th of 13, 6l behind Largesse at York 1m6f hcap, Gd-Sft. Star Rage: Held up and behind, effort 3f out, not much room and never able to challenge, 6th of 10, 9l behind Nigel's Lad at Ripon 2m hcap, Gd. Onefourseven: Lost place over 5f out, headway to chase leaders over 3f out, soon ridden, one pace final 2f, 4th of 9, 3l behind Unchanged at Thirsk 2m hcap, Gd. Unchanged: Always chasing leaders, stayed on to lead 2f out, soon clear, beating Monfari (gave 4lb) 4l at Thirsk 2m hcap, Gd. Great Oration: Always behind, virtually pulled up final furlong, tailed off, last of 11, well behind Forgie at Chester 2m hcap, Gd. Sea Freedom: 9-1 Always prominent, ridden over 6f out, one pace, 6th of 11, 20l behind Premier Night at Kempton 2m hcap, Gd-Fm. Mashan Raider: Headway and every chance 3f out, outpaced approaching final furlong, 4th of 10, 4l behind The Butterwick Kid at Redcar 1m6f hcap, Gd-Fm. Saltus Maker: Chased leaders, ridden 6f out, weakened 3f out, 13th of 18, 32l behind Indiana Princess at Pontefract 1m4f hcap, Gd-Fm.

4.15 49'S KALAMAZOO SECURITY PRINT HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)
1m 2f 6yds £7,676 (10 declared)

401 (4)	0021-	Set Trail (231) J Hanson 9-7	E Johnson	86
402 (8)	453-61	Flow By (14) (D) J Dunlop 9-4	G Carter	83
403 (6)	3143-	Simply Gifted (271) T Easterby 9-3	L Charnock	85
404 (5)	510-50	Nashid (27) (C) M Johnston 9-3	D Holland	87
405 (1)	61-034	Lucky Double (11) R Hannon 9-0	T Quinn	86
406 (7)	0-04	Trojan Wolf (18) M Tompkins 9-0	D Biggs	82
407 (10)	214-00	Scent Of Success (30) (BF) M Stoute 9-0	K Fallon ★	85
408 (9)	124200	Jolies Jewel (18) M Chapman 8-12	J Weaver	●90
409 (3)	06543-	O' Higgins (227) O Morris 8-11	D O'Donohoe	89
410 (2)	3350-3	Moving Princess (17) Miss S Hall 8-4	J Carroll	87

Tote betting: 7-2 Scent Of Success, Flow By, 5-1 Trojan Wolf, 13-2 Simply Gifted, Moving Princess, 8-1 Nashid, 9-1 Lucky Double, 14-1 Jolies Jewel, 16-1 Set Trail, 25-1 O'Higgins.
Ladbrokes betting: 7-2 Scent Of Success, 4-1 Flow By, 9-2 Trojan Wolf, 7-1 Simply Gifted, Moving Princess, 8-1 Nashid, 9-1 Lucky Double, 14-1 Jolies Jewel, 16-1 Set Trail, O'Higgins.
Coral betting: 7-2 Scent Of Success, 4-1 Flow By, Trojan Wolf, 6-1 Moving Princess, 8-1 Nashid, Simply Gifted, 9-1 Lucky Double, 12-1 Jolies Jewel, 16-1 Set Trail, 20-1 O'Higgins.
Hill's betting: 7-2 Flow By, 4-1 Scent Of Success, 5-1 Trojan Wolf, 13-2 Moving Princess, 7-1 Simply Gifted, Lucky Double, 8-1 Nashid, 12-1 Jolies Jewel, 14-1 Set Trail, 25-1 O'Higgins.

FORM GUIDE - Set Trail: Led until headed inside final furlong, soon led again, kept on, beating Chocolate a shd at Ayr 7f mdn, Sft. Flow By: Slowly into stride, soon recovered, led 3f out, held on well under pressure, beating Polebland 2l at Beverley 1m2f fls hcap, Gd-Fm. Simply Gifted: Led over 3f out, hung left, not quicken towards finish, 3rd of 15, 2½l behind Noble Demand at York 1m hcap, Sft. Nashid: Prominent until ridden and weakened 3f out, 10th of 11, 18l behind High And Mighty at Chester 1m4f hcap, Gd. Lucky Double: Held up, headway to chase leaders 2f out, kept on final furlong, 4th of 16, 2l behind Circulteer at Pontefract 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Trojan Wolf: Headway 3f out, not clear run 1½f out and 1f out, stayed on steady towards finish, 4th of 10, 4l behind Moratorium at Ripon 1m1f mdn, Gd. Scent Of Success: Chased leaders far side 5f, 23rd of 27, 18l behind Tom Dougal at Newmarket 1m hcap, Gd. Jolies Jewel: Soon driven along, chased leaders over 3f, soon lost place, 14th of 19, 14l behind Ho Leng at York 7f hcap, Gd. O' Higgins: Tracked leaders, effort 2f out, stayed on final furlong, 3rd of 15, 3½l behind Hermous at Redcar 1m mdn auct, Gd-Fm. Moving Princess: Held up, ridden over 2f out, headway over 1f out, ran on well towards finish, 3rd of 15, 1½l behind Miss Salsa Dancer at Thirsk 1m hcap, Gd-Fm.

4.45 YORKSHIRE-TYNE TEES TELEVISION HANDICAP 3YO
1m 4f 8yds £3,720 (9 declared)

501 (8)	20-0	Majestic Hills (17) J Dunlop 9-7	T Quinn	●90
502 (9)	21	Rafting (17) (D) M Johnston 9-5	J Carroll	86
503 (5)	00-012	High And Mighty (16) (D) (BF) J Gosden 9-4	L Dettori	87
504 (3)	456	Palais (14) M Stoute 9-4	M R Swinburn	83
505 (1)	613315	Acceptor (82) P Haslam 8-13	P Goode (7)	79
506 (7)	00-55	Paddy McGoon (15) D Elsworth 8-11	K Fallon	85
507 (4)	00-106	Torso (11) Mrs J Ramsden 8-7	J Fortune ★	85
508 (2)	044	Bint St James (17) J Bethell 8-6	R Duffield	—
509 (6)	-51400	Pipe Music (16) P Haslam 8-6	L Charnock	88

Betting: 11-4 High And Mighty, 7-2 Torso, 9-2 Rafting, 6-1 Palais, Paddy McGoon, 8-1 Majestic Hills, 18-1 Acceptor, Pipe Music, 33-1 Bint St James.

FORM GUIDE - Majestic Hills: Always behind, 11th of 16, 16l behind Royal Anthem at Newbury 1m2f mdn, Gd-Fm. Rafting: Close up, disputed lead 3f out, led well over 1f out, ran green, stayed on, beating Harlequin 2l at Thirsk 1m4f mdn fls, Gd-Fm. High And Mighty: Headway 4f out, not clear run 2½f out, every chance over 1f out, ran on, 2nd of 6, 2½l behind Dancing Rio at Ripon 1m4f hcap, Gd. Palais: Always in touch, kept on one pace final 3f, 6th of 17, 12l behind Forest Ending at Beverley 1m2f mdn, Gd-Fm. Acceptor: Chased leaders, ridden over 2f out, soon weakened, last of 5, 8l behind Kate's Cracker at Southwell 1m3f hcap, AW. Paddy McGoon: Led over 4f out until over 2f out, one pace, 5th of 13, 9l behind Macamadas at Windsor 1m4f hcap, Gd-Fm. Torso: Held up and behind, headway over 2f out, not clear run 1f out, not recover, 6th of 16, 4½l behind Circulteer at Pontefract 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Bint St James: Close up until outpaced final 2½f, 4th of 6, 8l behind Rafting at Thirsk 1m4f mdn fls, Gd-Fm. Pipe Music: Dwelt, always behind, 16th of 19, 21l behind Party Romance at Ripon 1m2f hcap, Gd.

5.15 FERRYBRIDGE FLYERS' MAIDEN STAKES
6f £3,631 (11 declared)

601 (1)		King of Honey J Gosden 4-9-6	R Hind	—
602 (8)		Love Is Welcome M Johnston 4-9-6	D Holland	—
603 (11)	03-	Above Board (312) J Hanson 3-9-0	E Johnson	85
604 (3)	00	Adobe (18) J Gosden 3-9-0	L Dettori	—
605 (6)	04	Clohamon (10) S Kettlewell 3-9-0	J Fortune	83
606 (8)	04	Dileep Singh (8) T Easterby 3-9-0	L Charnock	83
607 (5)	0	Spice Boy (23) B Whitaker 3-9-0	V Halliday	—
608 (2)	24-033	Dodo (13) D Elsworth 3-8-9	K Fallon	88
609 (10)		Kayoko A Jarvis 3-8-9	S Sweeney	—
610 (7)	540-42	Quiz Show (8) R Hannon 3-8-9	T Quinn	●90
611 (4)		Tassera C Thornton 3-8-9	Dean McKeown	—

Betting: 5-2 Dodo, 3-1 Quiz Show, 4-1 King Of Honey, 8-1 Love Is Welcome, Adobe, 12-1 Above Board, Clohamon.

FORM GUIDE - Above Board: Stakes up halfway, stayed on final furlong, 3rd of 10, 7l behind The Lidsing Cat at Nottingham 5f mdn, Gd-Fm. Adobe: Chased leaders, ridden over 2f out, soon lost place, 11th of 19, 18l behind Nuclear Debate at Thirsk 6f mdn, Gd. Clohamon: Headway over 1f out, nearest finish, 4th of 10, 4½l behind Dil at Doncaster 5f mdn auct, Gd. Dileep Singh: Chased leaders until ridden and beaten over 1f out, 4th of 10, 8l behind Tallanger at Redcar 6f mdn auct, Gd-Fm. Spice Boy: Dwelt, always behind, last of 16, 26l behind Talavera at Beverley 5f mdn, Gd. Dodo: Ridden and headway over 2f out, chased winner over 1f out until well inside final furlong, unable to quicken, 3rd of 13, 4½l behind Berayslm at Goodwood 7f mdn fls, Gd-Fm. Quiz Show: Chased leader, led over 2f out until inside final furlong, unable to quicken, 2nd of 16, 1l behind Asset Manager at Sandown 7f hcap, Gd.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level £1
K Fallon	39	178	21.9	+84.28
R Darley	26	197	13.2	-35.46
L Dettori	22	100	22	+10.89
J Fortune	18	177	10.2	-28.02
Pat Eddery	16	43	37.2	+25.67
W Ryan	14	69	20.3	-27.01
J Weaver	14	126	11.1	-44.40

Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level £1
Mrs J Ramsden	35	196	17.9	+15.53
J Eyre	14	139	10.1	-0.25
J Dunlop	11	48	27.1	+1.72
H Cecil	12	29	41.4	+4.40
Mrs M Reveley	12	118	10.2	-53.98
M Johnston	11	102	10.8	-29.77
R Hollinshead	6	146	[illegible]	-58.00

Results

LEICESTER

2.00: 1, **HIGH PREMIUM**, K Fallon (7-4 fav); 2, **Hugwity** (7-1); 3, **Alamein** (11-2). 12 ran Nk, 4. (R Fahey) Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £2.50, £1.30. Dual F: £9.40. Trio: £58.90. CSF: £10.82.
2.30: 1, **KHEYRAH**, K Fallon (11-10 fav); 2, **Sapphire Ring** (7-4); 3, **Jay Gee** (13-2). 4 ran Nk, 11. (E Dunlop) Tote: £1.70; Dual F: £1.10. CSF: £2.89.
3.00: 1, **NERVOUS REX**, Alex Greaves (9-1); 2, **Henry The Hawk** (8-1); 3, **Stayvork** (8-1); 4, **Alstead** (25-1). 8-1 fav Elton Ledger. 20 ran Hd, ¾, ¾. (D Nicholls) Tote: £12.10; £3.10, £3.80, £3.10, £7.90. Dual F: £58.50. Trio: £318.90. CSF: £74.20. Tricast: £575.43. NR: Never Think Twice, Southdown Cyrano. Rule 4 applies to board prices only, deduction 5p in the £.
3.30: 1, **SALIGO**, C Rutter (15-2); 2, **Clarify** (14-1); 3, **Praetorian Gold** (12-1); 4, **Sharp Cracker** (7-1). 6-1 fav Still Waters. 17 ran ¾, nk, 1. (H Morrison) Tote: £8.80; £1.70, £8.80, £2.50, £2.80. Dual F: £183.30. Trio: £826.40. CSF: £102.49. Tricast: £1,169.89.
4.00: 1, **GENEROUS TERMS**, Paul Eddery (20-1); 2, **Generous Real** (8-11 fav); 3, **Ta-Lim** (8-1). 11 ran 2, 1½. (H Candy) Tote: £19.70; £3.70, £1.10, £2.20. Dual F: £14.50. Trio: £22.00. CSF: £33.88. NR: Further Risk.
4.30: 1, **BLUE MELODY**, L Dettori (7-4 Fav); 2, **Morning Music** (12-1); 2, **Wince** (2-1). 8 ran ¾, 4. (D Loder) Tote: £4.30; £1.30, £2.00, £1.10. Dual F: £19.60. CSF: £24.66.
5.00: 1, **MURCHAN TYNE**, K Fallon (13-2); 2, **Phantom Waters** (11-4 fav); 3, **Flying Flip** (10-1). 14 ran 1¾, 1½. (E Alston) Tote: £5.50; £2.70, £2.40, £1.30. Dual F: £9.90. Trio: £22.70. CSF: £19.33. Tricast: £160.30.
PLACEPOT: £56.90. **QUADPOT:** £12.90.

HAMILTON

2.15: 1, **LORD ADVOCATE**, P Fessey (5-1); 2, **Kings Cay** (11-1); 3, **Lancer** 15-2 (it-fav). 5-2 jt-fav Indiana Princess. 9 ran Shd, 1. (D Nolan) Tote: £5.00; £1.50, £2.60, £1.30. Dual F: £20.60. Trio: £17.10. CSF: £48.52. Tricast: £140.29.
2.45: 1, **BEVERLEY MONKEY**, G Carter (13-8); 2, **Dispol Clan** (6-4 fav); 2, **Palace Green** (11-4). 5 ran 2, hd. (J Berry) Tote: £2.30; £1.70, £1.10. Dual F: £1.50. CSF: £4.07.
3.15: 1, **RICCARTON**, J Fortune (7-2); 2, **Jona Holley** (9-4 fav); 3, **Superpride** (11-4). 6 ran 1, 2. (P Calver) Tote: £3.60; £2.10, £1.50. Dual F: £5.10. CSF: £10.26.
3.45: 1, **HAPPY WANDERER**, A Culhane (5-4 fav); 2, **Dargo** (25-1); 2, **Calcraggie** (4-1). 5 ran 2½, hd. (P Haslam) Tote: £2.60; £1.40, £5.40. Dual F: £27.10. CSF: £23.34.
4.15: 1, **PST EXPRESS FLYER**, J Weaver (13-8 fav); 2, **Red Amazon** (13-2); 3, **Globe Global Claim** (20-1). 11 ran 2½, shd. (P Haslam) Tote: £1.90; £1.60, £3.00, £7.90. Dual F: £5.30. CSF: £11.53. NR: Oh Frobisher.
4.45: 1, **SOAKED**, Miss R Clark (6-1); 2, **Knotty Hill** (8-1); 3, **Serape** (8-1); 4, **Bubbly** (12-1). 5-1 fav Mustang. 10 ran Nk, ¾, nk. (D Chapman) Tote: £6.50; £2.40, £3.30, £1.90, £3.80. Dual F: £45.00. Trio: £176.20. CSF: £55.07. Tricast: £388.71.
PLACEPOT: £25.30. **QUADPOT:** £14.60.

● Evening results, page 14

Brighton

	GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.30	Celandine	Star Of Ring
3.00	Asef Alhind (nb)	Barbason
3.30	Prince Danzig	Yet Again
4.00	Lady Carlyon	Guesstimation
4.30	Sabhaan	Summer Deal
5.00	Facile Tiger	Facile Tiger

U-shaped left-handed course of 1½m with 3½f run-in. Sharp and undulating.
Going: Firm. ★ Denotes blinkers. ● Top form rating.
Draw: No advantage.
Long distance travellers: In The Stocks (4.30) L Cottrell, Devon, 165 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 5.00 Salsette **Visored:** 2.30 Mineylad.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing

2.30 VICTOR CHANDLER BET TODAY BY DEBIT CARD APPRENTICES HANDICAP
7f £2,522 (12 declared)

1 (2)	000000	Supreme Thought (11) I Naughton 6-9-10	Rachael Moody (3)	—
2 (9)	3-5040	Bold Spring (11) R Hannon 4-9-9	R Smith (3)	87
3 (12)	363-02	Celandine (10) A Turnell 5-9-6	B Hannon	84
4 (11)	050-26	Flying Pennant (10) (D) J Bradley 5-9-5	R Thomas (3) ★	86
5 (6)	0000-5	Star Of Ring (77) (D) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-5	R Cullen	●90
6 (10)	0000-0	Aquatic Queen (55) C Dwyer 4-9-4	J Savage (5)	—
7 (7)	80-002	Dark Menace (15) (CD) E Wheeler 6-9-0	R O'Leary (6) ★	89
8 (3)	6000	Zarifa (26) R Flower 3-8-9	R Miles (6)	—
9 (5)	663340	Lift Boy (17) (D) G L Moore 9-8-9	R Brisland (3)	81
10 (1)	431350	Rocky Waters (39) (D) Mrs L Stubbs 9-8-4	F Tynan ★	88
11 (4)	06-040	Diary Baby (33) J Bradley 6-8-0	Claire Lunds	85
12 (8)	006-	Mineylad (J13) J Neville 4-7-10	C Cogan ★	—

Betting: 7-2 Celandine, 4-1 Flying Pennant, 11-2 Dark Menace, 7-1 Bold Spring, 8-1 Star Of Ring, 10-1 Supreme Thought, Rocky Waters.

3.00 VICTOR CHANDLER BRIGHTON MILE CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP
1m £3,729 (5 declared)

1 (3)	036-06	Asef Alhind (13) (D) (BF) B Hanbury 4-10-0	P Robinson	88
2 (2)	0005-5	Sharp Shuffle (7) (CD) R Hannon 5-9-12	R Hughes	87
3 (1)	12000-	Olivo (251) (CD) C Horgan 4-9-3	D Harrison	84
4 (5)	162350	Barbason (20) (C) (D) G L Moore 6-9-1	Candy Morris	●90
5 (4)	-06000	Sooty Tern (11) (CD) J Bradley 11-8-12	R Ffrench	—

Betting: 5-4 Asef Alhind, 5-2 Barbason, 9-2 Sharp Shuffle, 6-1 Olivo, 16-1 Sooty Tern.

3.30 VICTOR CHANDLER CHANNEL 4 TELETEXT PAGE 621 HANDICAP
1m 3f 196yds £2,723 (9 declared)

1 (6)	1056-4	Be True (11) (CD) G L Moore 4-10-0	Candy Morris	85
2 (3)	045-50	Aztec Flyer (23) C Brittain 5-9-12	J Reid ★	87
3 (8)	13-214	Yet Again (3) (CD) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-9	T Sprake	●90
4 (7)	20300-	Passage Creeping (J123) L A Dace 5-9-9	A Whelan	—
5 (2)	650-08	Prince Danzig (28) (CD) D Murray Smith 7-9-6	C Lowther	86
6 (5)	3400-4	Sovereign Crest (5) (CD) C Horgan 5-8-12	D Harrison ★	86
7 (9)	0-0060	La Chatelaine (33) (C) Miss B Sanders 4-8-9	S Sanders	84
8 (1)	-25014	Kika (28) (CD) J Bridger 5-8-8	A Daly (3)	87
9 (4)	0-0606	Sammy's Shuffle (94) R Flower 3-7-10	J Quinn ★	77

Betting: 11-4 Yet Again, 7-2 Prince Danzig, 5-1 Kika, 13-2 Aztec Flyer, 7-1 Sovereign Crest, 8-1 Be True, La Chatelaine.

4.00 VICTOR CHANDLER BEST FOR GOLF CLAIMING CLASSIFIED STAKES
1m 2f £2,624 (7 declared)

1 (1)	131034	Quiet Arch (8) (D) W Muir 5-9-13	J Reid	—
2 (4)	343-40	Guesstimation (134) (CD) J Pearce 9-9-9	R Fenticer (3)	●90
3 (5)	30-010	Intowell (17) (C) G L Moore 4-9-6	S Whitworth	85
4 (3)	40040/	Shample (J116) S Woodman 6-9-2	R Hughes	—
5 (7)	-30653	Ron's Round (11) C Dwyer 4-9-1	J Gotobed (7)	87
6 (2)	340	Lady Carlyon (33) (BF) H Collingridge 5-9-0	R Ffrench	90
7 (6)	0-0001	Wedding Band (10) D Elsworth 3-8-7	D Griffiths (3) ★	82

Betting: 5-2 Guesstimation, 3-1 Lady Carlyon, 5-1 Quiet Arch, Wedding Band, 8-1 Intowell, 8-1 Ron's Round, 33-1 Shample.

4.30 VICTOR CHANDLER WORLD CUP PRICES ON C4 P.621 MAIDEN STAKES
7f £3,469 (7 declared)

1 (2)	0000-0	Velvet Jones (33) G Charles-Jones 5-9-7	R Studholme (7)	—
2 (7)	60	In The Stocks (15) L Cottrell 4-9-2	A Daly (3)	—
3 (4)	54-24	Grand Slam (10) R Hannon 3-8-11	R Hughes	89
4 (1)	33-302	Sabhaan (16) M Tregoning 3-8-11	D Harrison	87
5 (3)	335-0	Chrysalis (17) D Arbuthnot 3-8-6	S Whitworth	82
6 (6)	50	Ela-Australia (13) G Lewis 3-8-6	R Ffrench	83
7 (5)	233-22	Summer Deal (10) P Cole 3-8-6	C Rutter	●90

Betting: 11-8 Summer Deal, 9-4 Sabhaan, 7-2 Grand Slam, 10-1 Chrysalis, 14-1 Ela-Australia.

5.00 VICTOR CHANDLER SKY SPORTS TEXT PAGE 370 HANDICAP 3YO
5f 59yds £2,684 (7 declared)

1 (4)	530-00	Salsette (17) C Brittain 8-7	J Reid ★	82
2 (7)	4363-0	Days Of Grace (22) (D) M Madgwick 9-6	R Hughes	85
3 (2)	4-0422	Facile Tigre (10) (BF) S Dow 9-4	P Doe (5)	●90
4 (5)	364-0	Majalis (20) R Guest 9-2	M Roberts	86
5 (6)	02020-	Satis (159) M Channon 8-3	Candy Morris	84
6 (1)	00-04	Brave Maple (11) S C Williams 7-10	Martin Dwyer	85
7 (3)	3000-3	Blarney Park (11) C Dwyer 7-10	J Quinn	88

Betting: 9-4 Facile Tigre, 4-1 Majalis, 9-2 Salsette, 6-1 Blarney Park, 7-1 Brave Maple, 8-1 Satis, 10-1 Days Of Grace.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

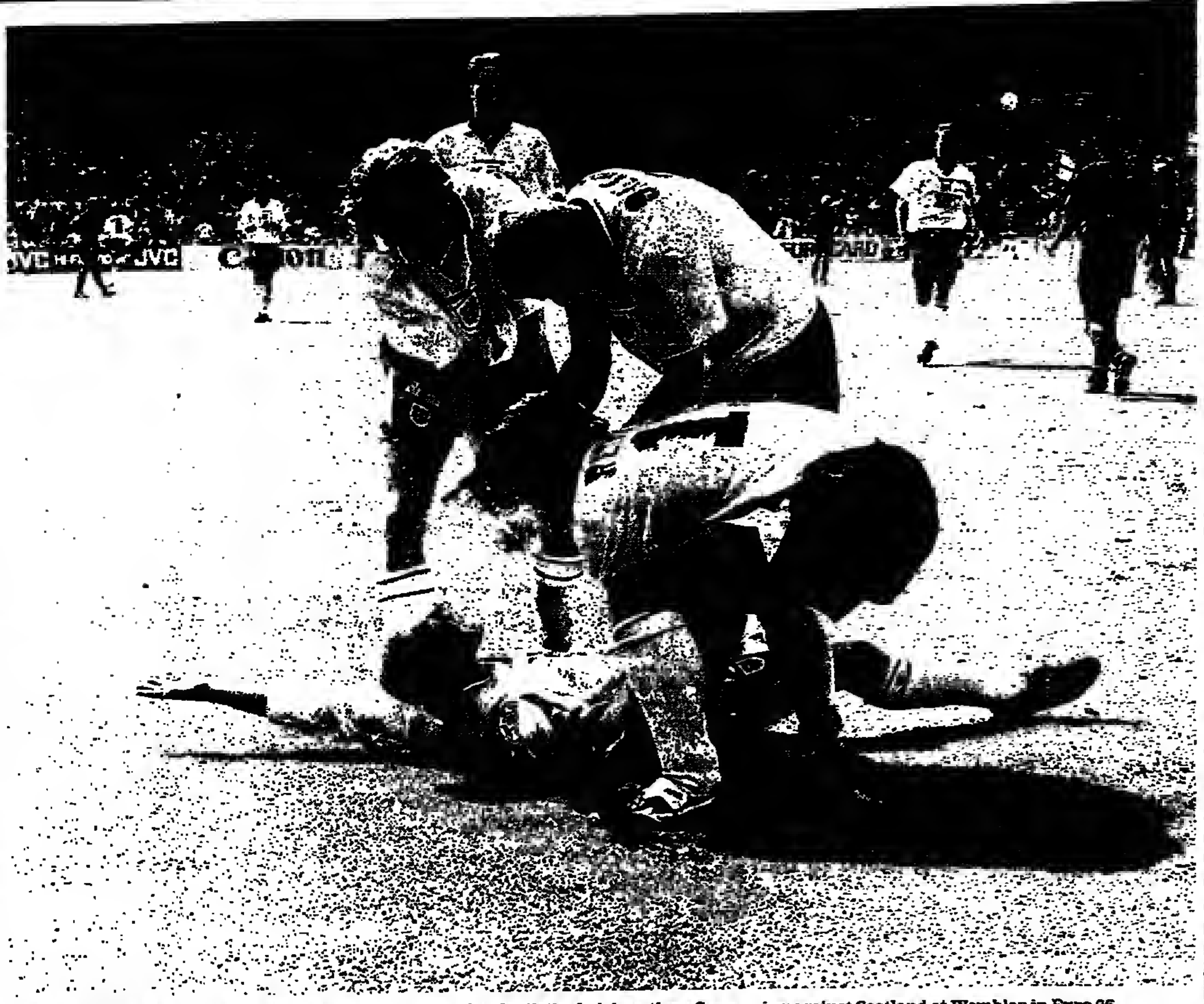
Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level £1
T Quinn	48	186	25.9	+20.55
D O'Neill	26	142	18.3	+25.91
S Sanders	20	133	15	-9.40
Pat Eddery	17	54	31.5	-0.42
J Reid	17	91	18.7	+3.84
M Roberts	16	81	19.8	+2.29
R Hughes	16	93	17.2	+33.98

Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level £1
R Hannon	34	199	17.1	-16.22
G L Moore	27	198	13.8	-35.67
S Dow	18	141	12.8	-13.85
M Channon	16	117	13.7	-20.82
Miss G Kelleway	15	67	22.4	+41.84
R Flower	10	81	12.3	-1.50
P Cole	9	85	10.6	-53.22

France 98 The Gascoigne affair

End of an era as bright lights go out

Michael Walker on the potty playmakers replaced by a new breed of athletes



No substitute for skill . . . Paul Gascoigne is put through the 'dentist's chair' routine after scoring against Scotland at Wembley in Euro 96

ONE consnlatinn for Panl Gascoigne, though it was probably not being mentioned in Sheryl's parlnur yesterday, is that he is not the first gifted-bnt-tronbled creator for whom everything ultimately went kebab-shaped — thongh he may be one of the last.

In fact, snch is the length of the list of even recent tumultuous souls, it is as if playing the role of the central spark nf creativity needed to be nndertaken nnly with the aid nf beavy protective clothing.

Nnr is it a peculiarly English feeling; it embraces players from all countries and every continent and with football cbanging tactically and physically we are prnbably witnessing the end of the colourful, spontaneous and unreliable artist.

With nn Gascoigne at the World Cup we will have to look to tbe veterans, namely Colombia's Carlos Valderrama, and *that* haircut, Romania's mncb-travelled Gheorghe Hagi and Bnlgaria's Hristo Stoichkov, joint top scorer in the United States last time, for flashes nf eccentricity as well as hrilliance in France this summer.

For the first time in five tournaments tbere will be nn Diego Maradnna to rely nn fnr moments nf madness and badness and with Valderrama approaching his 37tb hirthday, Hagi his 34th and Stnichkov his 33rd, this will probably be their last chance to entertain us.

In their place is a newer breed — "athletes", Glenn Hoddle described them yesterday — Frenchmen like Didier Deschamps, even Arsenal's Patrick Vieira or mnscular Dutchmen like Edgar Davids.

Individually they may all have their quirks, and the Dntcb tendency to argue internally has been a Wnrld Cnp constant, bnt on the pitch tbese are players wbose discipline nsnally overcomes the unpredictability nf any possihle maverick personality lurking within.

In the not-so-distant-past even the Germans bave had characters snch as Bernd Schuster wbose sheer arrogance and belief in his own ahility meant tbat he freqnently broke free nf the traditional Tentonic rigidity, arguing with Johan Cruyff nn less at Barcelona and strutting around the park apparently indifferently when representing his country.

Mattbias Sammer, althongb nominally a sweeper, is still a player with the creative impulse and is another whose presence alnne added snmething to every occasion hut he too will miss the finals in France — injured, not nverweight, and a severe loss to Germany.

Other notahle absentees from the summer's jamboree who might have prodnced a different way of playing are Brazil's Juninho — even though his manager Marin Zagalo said that Juninho "would have given us an element of variety because we have nn nne else like him"; Italy'a Gianfranco Zola, deemed dispensable hy Cesare Maldini — at least Roberto Baggio will be around, if just for advice on Bnddhism; and then there is David Ginola, the missing Frenchman. The hair with ths flair has to make do with commentating.

Ginnla's nmission, like that of Gascoigne, does not appear to be nnrelated to his temperament both on and off the pitch and, as these two are similarly talented and have had that talent nurtured and pampered from an early age, perhaps one conclusion to be drawn from the La Manga experience is that the cult of the principal dancer in football is on its way nnt.

Mad moments

Hristo Stoichkov
The broody Bulgarian was banned for life, aged 19, after a cup final brawl. Amnesty declared when his country qualified for 1986 World Cup

Paul Gascoigne
Provoked outrage in Italy by belching into a TV microphone when asked how he felt about being dropped by Lazio

Maradona
Alienated Boca Juniors team-mates by training alone: ten minutes on a treadmill followed by a high-speed drive on the Argentina rally route and a helicopter trip

Bernd Schuster
Arrogant and angry, he won only 21 caps before turning his back on West Germany; it should have been 121. Hated the press and moved to Spain

Martin Thorpe on the England coach's iron fist that lurks inside his velvet glove

Hoddle hits the hardest

THERE is a theosophical theory that we are all put on this earth to learn our lessons and emerge as better people from the experience. It should be no surprise, therefore, to find someone with Glenn Hoddle's detailed knnwledge of the theological handbook applying this holy law to the footballers under his charge.

The main difference between God and Hod, though, is that only the former's powers of forgiveness are unlimited. Cross the England coach and you can look forward to spending hleak days in the wilderness.

Ask Dennis Wise, Chris Sutton and now Paul Gascoigne. Each was offered the road to redemption by Hoddle but all took a different turning. As a result, none of them will be playing for England in France 98.

The young coach's ruthless ways were noticeable from early in his tracksuited career. At Chelsea he banished John Spencer, David Lee, Robert Fleck and Gareth Hall to the reserves fnr lengthy spells without any explanation. Spencer and Hall buckled down and found their way back into the fold. Fleck and Hall did not and were barely heard of again.

It is unclear exactly what happened between Hoddle and Wise during their time together at Stamford Bridge. But certainly Wise's refusal to do something about his poor disciplinary record was a continual annoyance to Hoddle while the little midfielder was also a bit "lippy" for the manager's liking.

And the upshot of this challenge to Hoddle's supremacy was that the national coach could not even find a place on the England B bench for one of the best midfielders in the country last season.

Sutton did get into the B squad, for the game against Chile in February, but pulled put on the grounds that he was in better form than some of the strikers in the A squad and that B games are largely meaningless. Despite Sutton's captivating form, Hoddle reacted to the personal snub the same way: the player was banished from consideration.

Now Gascoigne has angered the dispenser of World Cup dreams and finds himself awake in a nightmare. After being given "one last chance" following his wife-beating incident, Gazza was on parole. But two weeks ago Hoddle expressed concern that the conditions were being breached after more stories emerged about the Middlesbrough man's ability to hit the bottle as well as Sheryl.

"I said I was going to give Paul an opportunity to learn and open his mind a little bit," said Hoddle. "I think he did take that opportunity and I think he has now fallen back a hit."

A few days later the coach handed Gascoigne another "last-chance" ultimatum, telling the midfielder that he must get fit. One drink or one kebab does not make me a worse player, argued Gascoigne. "There is plenty of time to get fit for the World Cup."

Hoddle disagreed. To acquire match-fitness now requires more than completing a few laps and a few push-ups, but Gascoigne refused to see it. Hoddle had tried to be understanding hut his best advice was ignored. And so, in the end, was Gazza.

The clear message is that Hoddle likes to be listened to. In yesterday's press conference he heaped praise on Rio Ferdinand whose game, he said, has got better over the last four months after "I had asked him to improve his defending".

As Gazza also found out, Hoddle likes to judge the mettle of a person by their reaction to adversity. That is why be stuck with Tony Adams and Paul Merson, preferring to admire the pair for the way they resurrected their lives rather than to pour scorn on them for their misdemeanours.

Similarly, Hoddle praised Dion Dublin's positive attitude during the Casablanca trip, although the Coventry man knew that he was always likely to miss the final 22.

Gascoigne's problem was that he always wants to do things his way. "It's my life," he had said recently. It may be his life, hut it is one Hoddle has now prooouced upon from a great height.

Coventry to soften Dublin blow with £20,000 a week

Peter White

COVENTRY CITY appear to be prepared to meet Dion Dublin's £20,000-a-week wage demand. The striker rejected by Glenn Hoddle is expected to begin oegotiations with tbe chairman Bryan Richardson over a deal that would keep bim at Highfield Road for three years.

Dublin bas already rejected an offer of £16,500 a week.

The Astoo Villa manager John Gregory will open negotiations with the Bolton chairman Gordoo Hargreaves today over the Wanderers midfielder Alan Thompsoo. Leeds are also interested in the midfielder but they and Villa agreed not to get involved in an auction after Boltoo asked £5 millioo for him.

The Villa midfielder Mark Draper looks set to end speculation about his future by signing a new contract. He has beeo eyed by a number of Premiership clubs.

Kevin Davies yesterday completed his £7.25 million move to Blackhurn from Southampton. The England Under-21 striker signed a seven-year contract only 12 months after the then Southampton manager Graeme Souness paid Chesterfield £750,000 for him.

Tbe Southampton chairman Rupert Lowe, explaining the decision to sell Davies, said: "We are unable to generate as much mooey as our Premiership rivals and that will remain the case while we are waiting for a new stadium. But our manager Dave Jones was under no pressure to sell. In the eod it was an offer we could not refuse."

Stuart McCall, the 33-year-old Rangers midfielder, is returning to Bradford City, where he started his career.

Swindoo's manager Steve McMahon will sign Jimmy Glass on a free transfer from Bournemouth wbeo the goalkeeper returns from holiday.

Stan Ternent, who has quit Bury, is expected to be named Burnley manager today.

World Cup round-up

Bierhoff goal challenge to Ronaldo

OLIVER BIERHOFF has thrown down a goal-scoring gauntlet to Ronaldo, saying be will outstrip the Brazilian in France 98, just as be did in Italy in last season's Serie A.

The two strikers will become both oeighbours and rivals next season, with the German leaving Udinese for Milan and Ronaldo staying with Inter. But first comes the World Cup.

"I've always looked for a rival as a point of reference, ever since I was a boy," said Bierhoff. "It gave me the motivation I needed to get going. Perhaps I'll be able to beat Ronaldo again — at the World Cup as well as in the league."

Bierhoff, who scored twice in the 3-1 warm-up win over Colombia, said Germany benefited from being one of the World Cup favourites. "It's part of our tradition. Wheo it counts, we're always there. When there isn't any pressure, we're not as good, but when there's an emergency we know how to handle it."

Raul, expected to be one of the top forwards in France, is causing worry in the Spain camp. He has complained of a groin injury only 12 days before his country's first Group D match, against Nigeria.

The Spaniards held two training sessions yesterday, tbe second hehind closed doors, and officials were noncommittal about Raul. But the coach Javier Clemeote thinks he will face Northern Ireland in their final warm-up match tomorrow in Santander.

England's first opponents, Tunisia, have four European-based players in the squad announced yesterday, with their Polish coach Henri Kasperczak hoping the quartet will give them much-needed experience against Glenn Hoddle's team. Romania and Colombia in Group G.

The four are the striker Adel Sellimi of Spain's Jaen; Zoubeir Beya and Mahdi Ben Slimane, both from the German club Freiburg, and the goalkeeper Ali Bou Mnijel of French League Bastia.

Dwight Yorke spoiled a World Cup send-off for Jamaica by scoring twice in three minutes to give a Caribbean All-Star side a 2-1 victory in New Jersey.

Cbelsea's Frank Sinclair gave Jamaica a 1-0 lead after 34 minutes with a fine goal. But Aston Villa's striker retaliated in the 62nd and 65th.

Although the All-Stars won, Yorke said the Jamaicans would acquit themselves well in France. "They've got the whole Caribbean bebind them," he said. "I'm sure they're going to rise to the occasions. They don't need any motivation."

Squads

YUGOSLAVIA: Goalkeepers: Kralj, Lekovic. **Defenders:** Mirkovic, Djorovic, Djukic, Mihajlovic, Saveljic, Komljenovic, Petrovic. **Midfielders:** Stojkovic, Savicevic, Jokanovic, Govedarica, Jugovic, Brnovic, Stankovic, Drulovic, Stevic. **Forwards:** Mijatovic, Milosevic, Kovacevic, Ognjenovic.

TUNISIA: Goalkeepers: Ouaar, Boumnijel, Essaihi. **Defenders:** Thabet, Badra, Chouchane, Boukadida, S Trabelsi, Clayton, H Trabelsi, Abaliah. **Midfielders:** Ghodbani, Chihi, Ouazizi, Baya, Souayah, Hmid. **Forwards:** Younes, Slimane, Jlassi, Mafki, Sellimi.

SAUDI ARABIA: Goalkeepers: Al-Daeyea, Al-Sadiq, Al-Antaif. **Defenders:** Al-Jahani, Al-Khilaiwi, Zubramawi, Ahmad Madani, Sulimani, Al-Dosari, Al-Janoubi. **Midfielders:** Amin, Al-Shahrani, Al-Owairan, Al-Harbi, Al-Muwallid, Saleh, Al-Temiyat. **Forwards:** Al-Jaber, Al-Mehallel, Al-Thynlyan, Al-Owairan, Al-Dossari.

DENMARK: Goalkeepers: Schmeichel, Krogh, Kjaer. **Defenders:** Hoegh, Rieper, Henriksen, Colding, Schjoenberg, Heintze, Laursen, Helveg. **Midfielders:** Toefting, Frandsen, Nielsen, Wieghorst, Goldbaek, M Laudrup, Joergensen. **Forwards:** Molnar, Moeller, S Laudrup, Sand.

Athletics

Radcliffe finds late kick at last

Duncan Mackay in Hengelo

IT MAY not yet be in the Haile Gebrselassie-class, but Paula Radcliffe last night demonstrated bere that she is finally developing a sprint finish as sbe took more than a second off her personal best in the 1500 metres.

The Bedford ruoner, so often let down in major races by her lack of finishing speed, displayed hitberto hidden pace as she passed seven runners on a final lap covered inside 64 seconds to finish third in 4min 05.81sec behind old rival Gabriela Szabo, who won in 4.02.91. "See, I have got a kick," she joked.

It was an encouraging run from Radcliffe in ber first race since setting a world best for five miles in Balmoral in April. The world cross-country silver medallist had been boping for nothing more than an early-season sharpener as she prepares for the challenges ahead over 5,000m and 10,000m.

The meeting was a good opportunity for many of Britain's leading runners to stretch their legs. Belgrave's Darren Campbell staked his claim to replace his coach, Linford Christie, as Britain's new No. 1 sprinter when he finished second in the 100m in 10.31sec behind Davidson Ezinwa, of Nigeria, who clocked 10.13.

However, the performance paled next to that of the world 100m champion Maorice Greene in Eugene the previous day. First, the American won the 100m in a blazing 9.79 — 0.04 inside Donovan Bailey's two-year-old world record — but the trailing wind of 2.9m per second was well over the allowable limit of 2.0 for the time to be official.

Then Greene capped his afternoon by beating the world record-holder Michael Johnson in the 200m in a barely wind-aided 19.88.

There was also a surprise for the 800m runner Diane Modahl from the American meeting where Grimsby's Tanya Blake, a member of Carl Lewis'a Santa Monica Track Club, raced into the frame for a place in Britain's team for this month's European Cup in St Petersburg by finishing second in a personal best 2.00.10.

Modahl's sights this summer are set on regaining the Commonwealth title she was robbed of four years ago when she was sent home from Victoria after being falsely accused of failing a drugs test. She clearly still has a lot of work to do after fading to finish eighth here in 2.02.70. The winner was Hssna Benhassi, of Morocco, in 2.00.07.

Sport in brief

Basketball

Micheel Jordan scored 28 points as the Chicago Bulls beat Indiana 88-83 to win their NBA semi-final and return to the Championship series. The Bulls' best-of-seven final against Utah Jazz starts tomorrow.

Cycling

Fabiano Fontanelli edged out his fellow Italians Paolo Bettini and Mario Scirea at the end of the 140-mile 16th stage of the Giro d'Italia from Udine to Asiago yesterday. Alex Zülle retained the pink jersey.

Rugby Union

The veteran centre Frank Bunce appears to have played his last game for the All Blacks. The 36-year-old Bunce, who has signed a two-year cootract for the French club Castres, has been dropped from next week's trial to decide the team to play England.

Rugby League

Gary Connolly has committed himself to Ireland for their Tri-Nations series against France and Scotland later this year, *writes Andy Wilson*. The Wigan and Great Britain centre was born and bred in St Helens but has Irish grandparents.

Results

Football

WORLD CUP WARM-UP MATCH: New Jersey: Caribbean all-stars 2 (Yorke 62, 65) Jamaica 1 (Sinclair 68).

Golf

DEUTSCHE BANK-SAP OPEN (Hamburg): **Leading final scores** (GB/Ire unless stated): **265** L Westwood 69, 68, 61, 66. **268** O Clarke 67, 68, 65, 68. **269** M O'Meara (US) 67, 69, 63, 70. **271** P Walton 68, 70, 65, 67, B Langer (Ger) 67, 66, 70, 68, P Senior (Aus) 69, 67, 64, 71. **272** J Payne 70, 68, 69, 65; D Howell 69, 68, 66, 69; M-A Jimenez (Sp) 69, 69, 66, 69. **273** C Montgomerie 67, 67, 72, 67; P Lawrie 68, 72, 66, 67; B May (US) 67, 69, 68, 70. **274** T Bjorn (Den) 68, 68, 71, 66; P Mitchell 68, 70, 67, 71, J Haeggman (Swe) 69, 70, 63, 72; P Broadhurst 68, 66, 68, 78. **275** G Orr 71, 68, 69, 67; C Rocca (It) 70, 71, 66, 68, P Quirici (Switz) 68, 70, 67, 70; J Van de Velde (Fr) 67, 67, 67, 74; I Woosnam 69, 71, 64, 71. **276** N Price (Zim) 70, 68, 68, 70; J Singh (India) 69, 70, 67, 70; R Goosen (SA) 68, 69, 69, 71; I Garbutt 70, 68, 67, 71; P McGinley 68, 74, 66, 71. **277** J Sandelin (Swe) 68, 70, 71, 67; A Cejka (Ger) 68, 70, 70, 69; J-M Olazabal (Sp) 69, 71, 67, 70; G Chalmers (Aus) 67, 71, 69, 70; M Farry (Fr) 72, 66, 69, 71; E Canonica (It) 67, 71, 68, 71; S Henderson 70, 68, 66, 75. **278** P Price 70, 71, 69, 69; P Fulke (Swe) 72, 67, 69, 70; B Davis 69, 68, 70, 71; K Tomori (Japan) 66, 69, 70, 71; S Torrance 66, 69, 69, 72. **279** P O'Malley (Aus) 67, 70, 71, 71; M Roe 68, 70, 70, 71; E Darcy 72, 69, 67, 71; M James 67, 68, 72, 72; M Hallberg (Swe) 70, 70, 67, 72; W Westner (SA) 70, 68, 70, 73, P Haugsrud (Nor) 71, 68, 67, 75. **280** J Spence 67, 73, 72, 68; J Coceres (Arg) 70, 69, 72, 69; O Hospital (Sp) 72, 69, 69, 70; O Gilford 70, 71, 69, 70, C Watts 73, 67, 69, 71; M Twiniclilf 70, 69, 69, 72; M Mouland 70, 69, 69, 72; W Riley (Aus) 72, 69, 67, 72. **281** K Brink (Swe) 71, 69, 72, 70; O Cooper 72, 69, 70, 70, R Claydon 71, 67, 72, 71; D Carter 70, 71, 69, 71; P Hedblom (Swe) 73, 69, 68, 72; S Webster 72, 69, 66, 74. **282** P Harrington 69, 72, 72, 69; A Coltart 68, 68, 74, 72; T Gogele (Ger) 70, 69, 70, 74.

MEMORIAL CLASSIC (Dublin, Ohio): **Leading final scores** (US unless stated): **271** F Couples 68, 67, 67, 69. **275** A Mageo 67, 71, 68, 69. **276** O Duval 74, 66, 67, 69. **277** J Furyk 74, 69, 67, 68. **278** S Chambles 71, 72, 68, 69; D Love 66, 73, 66, 73. **279** T Herron 72, 72, 67, 68, M Calcavecchia 68, 69, 72, 70; T Tryba 67, 71, 68, 73; E Els (SA) 67, 72, 67, 73. **280** C Stadler 67, 73, 70, 70; J Parnevik (Swe) 73, 71, 68, 70; R Damron 70, 70, 69, 71; O Day 73, 71, 65, 71; 7 Lehman 69, 70, 70, 72. **Also: 284** N Faldo (GB) 71, 70, 69, 74.

Tennis

FRENCH OPEN (Paris): **Men: Fourth round: F Dewulf** (Bel) bt F Clavet (Sp) 7-5, 6-3, 6-1; **A Corretja** (Sp) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 6-4, 6-4, 6-3; **H Arazi** (Mor) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; **C Pioline** (Fr) bt M Safin (Rus) 7-5, 4-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Women: Fourth round: J Novotna (Cz) bt A Kournikova (Rus) 6-7, 6-3, 6-3; **I Majoli** (Cro) bt C Martinez (Sp) 7-6, 6-7, 6-3.

Athletics

IAAF GRAND PRIX II (Hengelo, Neth): **Men: 100m:** 1, D Ezinwa (Nig) 10.13sec; 2, D Campbell (GB) 10.31; 3, P Stevens (Bel) 10.33. **800m:** 1, J Botha (SA) 1.45.49; 2, R Chirchir (Ken) 1.46.51; 3, H Sepeng (SA) 1.46.56. **1500m:** 1, H El Guerrouj (Mor) 3.31.19; 2, N Bosch (Fr) 3.36.60, 3, J Achon (Uga) 3.37.12. **Also:** 4, K McKay (GB) 3.37.22. **3,000m:** 1, W Bolt Kipketer (Ken) 7.38.05; 2, S Lahlali (Mor) 7.38.62; 3, S Berrioui (Mor) 7.42.39. **10,000m:** 1, H Gebrselassie (Eth) 26.22.75 (world record); 2, H Jifar (Eth) 27.29.37; 3, G Thola (Eth) 27.32.82. **110m hurdles:** 1, M Crear (US) 13.34; 2, F Balzer (Ger) 13.36; 3, R Korving (Neth) 13.37. **3,000m steeplechase:** 1, S Barmassai (Ken) 8.11.57; 2, J Chelule (Ken) 8.13.01; 3, P Sang (Ken) 8.14.43. **Shot:** 1, O-S Buder (Ger) 20.71m; 2, R Wirastjuk (Ukr) 20.30; 3, M Halvari (Fin) 20.27.

Women: 100m: 1, A Philip (Ger) 11.22; 2, E Ojokolo (Nig) 11.29; 3, B Grant (Jam) 11.31. **800m:** 1, H Benhassi (Mor) 2.00.07; 2, H Meissner (Ger) 2.00.24; 3, L Vriesde (Sur) 2.00.46. **1500m:** 1, O Szabo (Rom) 4.02.91; 2, K Dulecha (Eth) 4.03.93; 3, P Radcliffe (GB) 4.05.81. **3,000m:** 1, Z Ouaziz (Mor) 8.30.43; 2, G Wami (Eth) 8.44.15; 3, A Worku (Eth) 8.44.57. **400m hurdles:** 1, K Batten (US) 54.70; 2, B Rieger (Ger) 55.36; 3, E Goossens (Neth) 56.26. **Discus:** 1, N Grasu (Rom) 65.82m; 2, A Kelesidou (Gr) 64.70; 3, B Faumuina (NZ) 64.16.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Detroit 2 Chicago WS 6; Toronto 3 Cleveland 6, Baltimore 5 Texas 9; NY Yankees 7 Boston 13; Tampa Bay 8 Seattle 11; Kansas City 10 Oakland 4; Minnesota 5 Anaheim 8. **Standings: East:** 1, NY Yankees (W37, L13, Pct.740, GB0); 2, Boston (31-22-.585-7½); 3, Toronto (28-27-.509-11½); 4, Baltimore (25-30-.455-14½); 5, Tampa Bay (24-30-.444 15). **Central:** 1, Cleveland (W32, L22, Pct.593, GB0); 2, Minnesota (24-29-.453-7½); 3, Chicago WS (22-31-.415-9½); 4, Detroit (21-30-.412-9½); 5, Kansas City (21-32-.396-10½). **West:** 1, Texas (W33, L21, Pct.611, GB0); 2, Anaheim (27-26-.509-5½); 3, Seattle (25-29-.473-7½); 4, Oakland (22-31-.415-10½).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 6 NY Mets 5; Pittsburgh 9 Montreal 4; Milwaukee 7 Florida 6; Colorado 7 Houston 8; San Diego 7 St Louis 3; Los Angeles 5 Cincinnati 6; San Francisco 7 Arizona 4; Chicago Cubs 4 Atlanta 2. **Standings: East:** 1, Atlanta (W39, L16, Pct.684, GB0); 2, NY Mets (31-20-.608-5); 3, Philadelphia (25-26-.472-12); 4, Montreal (20-35-.364-18); 5, Florida (17-38-.309-21). **Central:** 1, Houston (W33, L22, Pct.600, GB); 2, Chicago Cubs (31-24-.564-2); 3, Milwaukee (26-26-.528-4); 4, St Louis (26-26-.519-4½); 6, Cincinnati (27-30-.474-7); 6, Pittsburgh (26-30-.464-7½). **West:** 1, San Diego (W35, L21, Pct.625, GB0); 2, San Francisco (33-24-.579-2½); 3, Los Angeles (27-29-.482-8); 4, Colorado (24-32-.429-11); 5, Arizona (17-39-.304-18).

Basketball

NBA: Play-off semi-final: Eastern Conference: Chicago 88 Indiana 83 (Chicago win series 4-3). Chicago play Utah in finals.

WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Bonn): **Group F:** Slovakia 69 Germany 54. Slovakia qualify for the quarter-finals.

Cycling

GIRO D'ITALIA: Stage 16 (Udine to Asiago; 236km): 1, F Fontanelli (It) Mercatone Uno 5hr 53min 53sec; 2, P Bettini (It) Asics; 3, M Scirea (It) Saeco both same time; 4, M Piccoli (It) Brescialat at 7sec; 5, A Ferrigato (It) Vitalicio; 6, N Loda (It) Ballan; 7, E Cassani (It) Polti; 8, J Ochoa (Sp) Kelme all st; 9, C Moller (Den) TVM 13; 10, F Guidi (It) Polti 3.11; 11, M Martin (Sp) Kelme st; 12, V Calì (Fr) Casino 3.15; 13, O Fagnini (It) Saeco 4.37; 14, F Proteil (It) Amore & Vita; 15, M Gualdi (It) Polti; 16, V Aparicio (Sp) Vitalicio; 17, F Baldato (It) Riso Scotti; 18, B Cenghialta (It) Riso Scotti; 19, A Baronti (It) Cantina Tollo; 20, N Bo Larsen (Den) TVM all st. **Overall:** 1, A Zuelle (Switz) Festina 73hr 51min 28sec; 2, P Tonkov (Rus) Mapei at 2min 2sec; 3, Bettini 3.29; 4, M Pantani (It) Mercatone Uno 3.48; 5, Giuseppe Guerini (It) Polti 4.21; 6, A Noe (It) Asics 4.34; 7, M Bartoli (It) Asics 4.52; 8, O Camenzind (Switz) Mapei 5.21; 9, S Gonchar (Ukr) Cantina Tollo 5.48; 10, J C Dominguez (Sp) Vitalicio 5.50; 11, R Forconi (It) Mercatone Uno 6.15; 12, M Velo (It) Mercatone Uno 6.52; 13, L Leblanc (Fr) Polti 6.56; 14, W Belli (It) Festina 7.01; 15, L Roux (Fr) TVM 7.33; 16, N Miceli (It) Riso Scotti 7.51; 17, O Clavero (Sp) Vitalicio 8.34; 18, O Rebellin (It) Polti 8.45; 19, Moller 3.49; 20, G Faresin (It) Mapei 9.18.

Ice Hockey

NHL: Play-offs: Western Conference: Detroit 3 Dallas 2 (Detroit lead series 2-1).

Hockey

WORLD CUP (Utrecht): **Men: Final:** Netherlands 3 Spain 2 (aet, sudden death goal) **3-4 places:** Germany 1 Australia 0. **5-6:** Pakistan 4 England 2. **7-8:** South Korea 4 Canada 2. **9-10:** India 1 New Zealand 0. **EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Men C Div** (Glasgow): **Final:** Western (Scot) 3 Slavia Prague 1. **Women B Div** (Cardiff): **Final:** Rhythm Grodno (Bela) 1 Slavia Prague 1 (4-2 pens). **3-4:** Swansea 3 Muckross (Ire) 2 (1-3 pens).

Evening Racing

Hereford

6.40 (2m 3f 110yds): **1, MIGHTY PHANTOM,** M A Fitzgerald (8-11 Fav); **2, Southerndown** (33-1); **3, Daughter In Law** (20-1). 13 ran. 3, 2. (R Phillips) Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £4.10, £4.80. Dual F: £23.40. Trio: £183.80. CSF: £37.57. NR: Majestic Altair, Weekend Worker. **7.10** (3m 1f 110yds): **1, APPEARANCE MONEY,** M A Fitzgerald (3-1 Fav); **2, Prowse** (10-1); **3, Cottage Counsel** (20-1). 13 ran. 17, 15 (F Murphy) Tote: £3.20; £2.00, £4.20, £7.50. Dual F: £24.70. Trio: £124.80. CSF: £32.27. Tricast: £496.45. **7.40** (2m): **1, PORLOCK CASTLE,** S Fox (12-1); **2, Influence Pedler** (7-1); **3, Chief Gale** (20-1). 7-4 Fav Punkah. 7 ran. 4, 2½. (P Ritchens) Tote: £27.80; £3.00, £4.10. Dual F: £23.30. CSF: £84.56. **8.10** (2m 1f): **1, LAUREL SEEKER,** P Henley (10-1); **2, Shalles Dream** (12-1); **3, Supermick** (7-2 Fav). 15 ran. 7, 2. (P Hobbs) Tote: £12.20; £2.70, £7.20, £2.30. Dual F: £144.30. Trio: £100.30. CSF: £124.65. Tricast: £478.78. NR: Pangeran, Safecracker, Sport of Fools.

Thirsk

6.20 (6f): **1, SUNSET LADY,** A McCarthy (8-1); **2, Bodfari Anna** (12-1); **3, Canny-lass** (14-1). 9-4 Fav Sweet As A Nut. 13 ran. 2½, 2. (P. Haslam) Tote: £7.30; £1.30, £2.90, £4.10. Dual F: £220.40. Trio: £198.60. CSF: £96.40. **6.50** (1m 4f): **1, CARBURTON,** O Holland (9-2); **2, Crystal Falls** (9-4 Fav); **3, The Butterwick Kid** (11-4). 7 ran. 2, ¾. (J Glover) Tote: £4.60; £2.00, £2.40. Dual F: £7.10. CSF: £13.19. **7.20** (1m): **1, TAKHLID,** A Culhane (15-8 Fav); **2, Secret Mantle** (20-1); **3, Rare Talent** (14-1). 13 ran. 3, 1½. (D Chapman) Tote: £2.50; £1.20, £7.10, £2.80. Dual F: £104.00. Trio: £205.60. CSF: £44.08. Tricast: £331.86. NR: Sea Ya Maite. **7.50** (1m): **1, GLAIZE,** J Fortune (12-1); **2, Harmony** (4-5 Fav); **3, Gleaming Hill** (3-1). 5 ran. Hd, ¾. (E Dunlop) Tote: £11.70; £5.00, £1.10. Dual F: £8.40. CSF: £20.42. **8.20** (7f): **1, JOHN FERNELEY,** T Quinn (11-8 Fav); **2, Silk St John** (9-4); **3, Inchalong** (8-1). 8 ran. ¾, 1. (P Cole) Tote: £2.00; £1.30, £1.40. Dual F: £2.20. CSF: £4.08.

Windsor

6.30 (1m 2f 7yds): **1, BRANDON JACK,** W R Swinburn (9-2); **2, Stone Ridge** (7-1); **3, Wellaki** (7-2 Fav); **4, Snow Partridge** (12-1). 16 ran. 2½, 4. (I Balding) Tote: £3.80; £1.20, £2.80, £1.60. Dual F: £11.10. Trio: £7.70. CSF: £32.64. Tricast: £118.54. **7.00** (1m 67yds): **1, RIVER BEAT,** R Ffrench (7-1); **2, Elbe Magic** (6-1); **3, Final Settlement** (33-1); **4, Mari-Ela** (15-2). 7-2 Fav Mister Tricky. 18 ran. 2½, nk. (M Tompkins) Tote: £10.00; £2.00, £1.90, £5.40. Dual F: £24.10. Trio: £432.60. CSF: £45.20. Tricast: £1,296.92. **7.30** (6f): **1, CARIBBEAN MONARCH,** W R Swinburn (9-4); **2, Tango** (11-2); **3, Sharp Hat** (6-1). 2-1 Fav Almazi. 8 ran. 1½, nk. (M Stoute) Tote: £2.70; £1.30, £2.30, £1.90. Dual F: £8.30. CSF: £14.73. **8.00** (5f 10yds): **1, CHEYENNE GOLD,** Pat Eddery (4-6 Fav); **2, College Blue** (9-2); **3, Sydney Safelands** (7-1). 9 ran. 1½, ¾. (R Hannon) Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.50, £1.70. Dual F: £2.80. Trio: £4.90. CSF: £4.02. NR: Charlene Lacy.

● Chris Eubank's return fight with the WBO cruiserweight champion Carl Thompson will take place on July 18. Their first meeting in Manchester in April ended in a unanimous points victory for Thompson and Eubank spent 48 hours under observation in hospital after one of the most punishing contests in recent years.

● Riders were forced to use yesterday's first TT practice session simply to familiarise themselves with the course as rain and mist descended over the Isle of Man. The weather severely restricted speeds, with the Scotsman Iain Duffus, a former winner around the demanding 37.73-mile motorcycle circuit, topping the leaderboard for the junior race on a Honda, lapping at an average 94.02mph.

● The American golfer Rosie Jones won her first US LPGA Tour title of the year yesterday, the rain-delayed Rochester International in New York. Jones's final-round 72 gave her a nine-under 279 for the tournament and a two-stroke advantage over Juli Inkster, who fired a final round of 69.

Team talk

The independent news and reports service

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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

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Guardian Tuesday June 2 1998

on the England coach's
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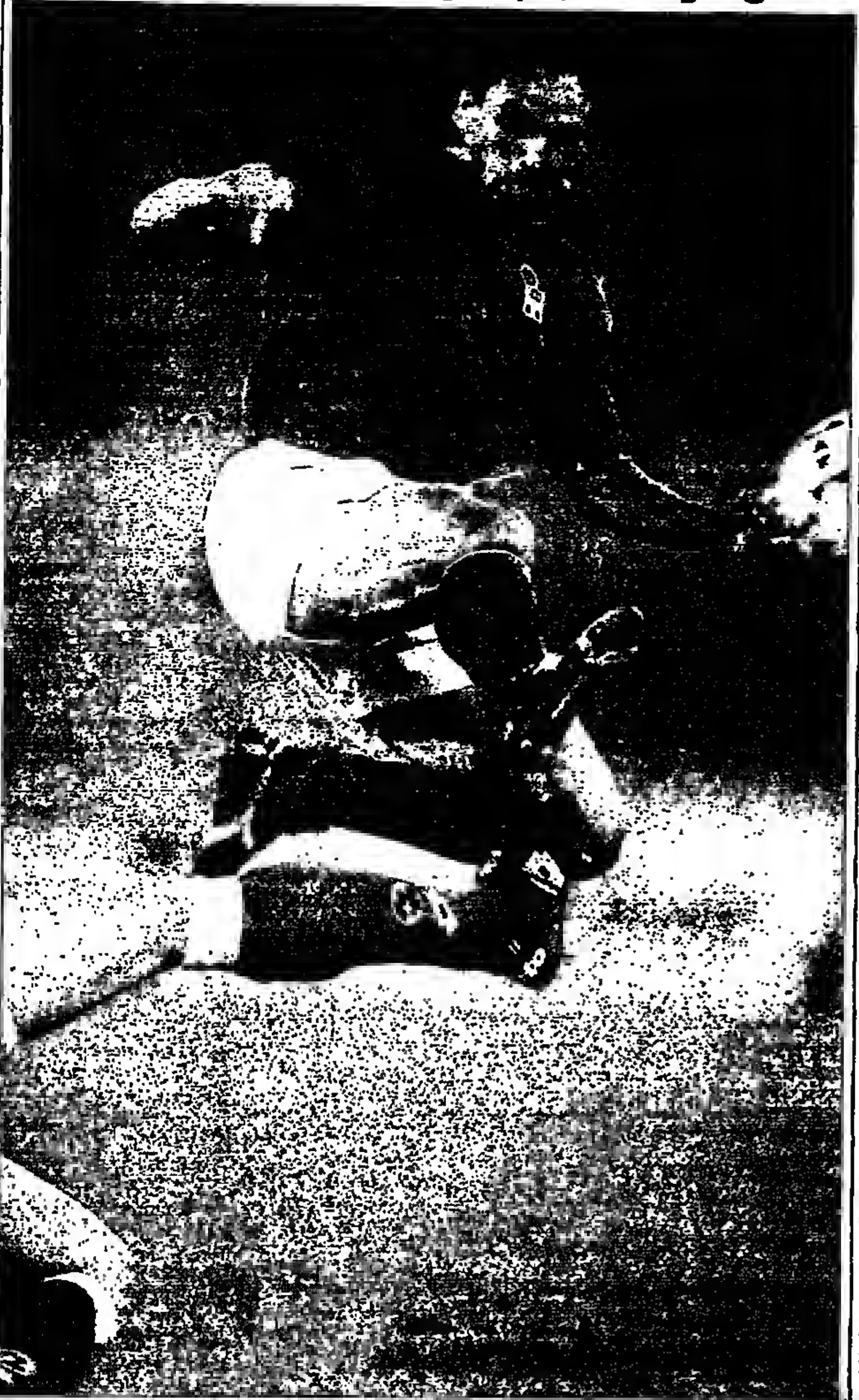
France 98 Aces and wild cards

Azzurri's divine quality

In the second of our series on World Cup groups, **Paddy Agnew** finds Italy in ominous shape



Rising again . . . Roberto Baggio has earned a surprise recall from Cesare Maldini, pictured right with his son Paolo who will also be prominent in Italy's campaign

ONE MONTH ago many Italian commentators were preparing the obituary to Roberto Baggio's international career, convinced that Italy's coach Cesare Maldini would risk nationwide opprobrium by leaving the Little Prince out of the squad for France'98.

Today Baggio not only finds himself in the Italian squad but also on standby to play in their opening World Cup game against Chile in Bordeaux oo Thursday week. Furthermore, ha is due to lead the attack in tonight's friendly against Sweden in Gothenburg.

The dramatic turnaround in Baggio's fortunes has been prompted by two factors. First, he has been in superb form this year, scoring 22 Serie A goals and looking sharper, fitter and stronger than at any time in his career. Second, Alessandro Del Piero has yet to recover from the thigh muscle strain he picked up during Juventus's 1-0 defeat by Real Madrid in the Champions Cup final two weeks ago.

That Baggio had been written off is only too understandable. The 31-year-old has played nnly four times for Italy since the penalty miss that consigned them to defeat in the World Cup final against Brazil four years ago. Furthermore, Maldini has played Baggio only once aince taking over from Arrigo Sacchi in December 1996.

When it came to crunch qualifying games sucb as those against England and Russia last autumn, Baggio was overlooked. Maldini also ignored the Divine Ponytail for the friendlies against Slovakia in January and Paraguay in April.

Asked about Baggio two months ago, Maldini replied that the player was being watched, before immediately going on to talk at length about Del Piero. The impression was that Baggio was out.

Persistent injury, indifferent form and two club changes in the past three seasons — from Juventus to Milan and then on to Bologna — have not helped Baggin as the memories of his important contribution to Italy's campaigns at the Italia 90 and USA 94 finals have faded.

Throughout all the recent vicissitudes of his career, however, Baggio maintained his self-belief — and burning desire to expunge the memory of that missed penalty kick in Pasadena. "Even if I had a good World Cup four years ago, what remains with me is the disappointment of losing the final on penalties . . . Even at the distance of four years, I still find it hard to accept that loss and harder still to accept my penalty miss."

Baggio's rejuvenation is just one further reason for including Italy in everyone's shortlist of tournament favourites.

England fans might do well to forget that 0-0 draw in Rome last October when, Maldini admits, be did not get things right in his preparation and erred in fielding a three-man attack of Christian Vieri, Filippo Inzaghi and Gianfranco Zola.

Temperameot and style, allied to the springtime form of Del Piero and Baggio, suggest that Italy should honour a tradition which has seen them win the cup three times, compete in two of the last four finals and reach the semi-finals in three of the last four tournaments.

The quintessentially Italian 5-3-2 formation favoured by Maldini guarantees solidity and economy of effort, two key factors in the context of an energy-sapping tournament at the end of a long hard league season.

As an eminently successful coach to Italy's Under-21 side — he won three European Championships with many of the players in his current squad — Maldini proved more flexible and adaptable than his critics might care to admit. In his preparations for France, he has taken on board the lessons of Italy's disappointing performance against England in Rome and their last-gasp qualifying struggle against Russia, whom they beat 2-1 on aggregate in a play-off.

Even allowing for traditionally poor autumnal performances from Italian teams, the *Azzurri* looked short on flair and creativity in attack and midfield.

To remedy this, Maldini has drafted in Del Piero and Baggio, both of whom played little part in the qualifying campaign. Ooe of them will support either Vieri or Fabrizio Ravanelli in attack.

He has also added skill and pace with the inclusion of Internazionale's winger Francesco Moriero and a playmaking alternative in the shape of Roma's central midfielder Luigi Di Biagio.

Moriero's dribbling ability and penchant for the spectacular make him a useful alternative to the defensive solidity of Angelo Di Livio on the right flank while Di Biagio will offer strong competition to any of the current first-choice midfield trio of Roberto Di Matteo, Demetrio Albertini and Dino Baggio.

Defence has always been the strong point of Maldini's teams but there have been doubts casts over the wisdom of using Alessandro Costacurta at sweeper given the way his form has declined with that of Milan's. Maldini appears to have been alert to the problem and has taken the precaution of recalling the 34-year-old Giuseppe Bergomi, who won a World Cup medal at 18 in 1982. Bergomi has been in excellent form this season with Internazionale, often playing in the role of sweeper.

However, the hint of defensive frailty and the loss of the Juventus goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi to injury will be glossed over if Del Piero is fit to carry on terrorising defences as he did last season and if Baggio can reproduce his form of 1994.

All in all, ignore Italy at your peril.

Group B form guide

Italy
Odds 7-1
Last five matches (most recent first, Italy score first) Paraguay 3-1; Slovakia 3-0; Russia 1-0; Russia 1-1; England 0-0
Group schedule Chile, June 11; Cameroon, June 17; Austria, June 23

Much will hinge on Alessandro Del Piero, although he played little part in the qualifying campaign. He is expected to recover from a thigh injury and on recent form could be the star of the tournament. Roberto Baggio's surprise recall gives Italy an extra creative cutting edge.

Plenty of class in central midfield, with Francesco Moriero a potential heir to Bruno Conte on the right.

Italy will be strong at the heart of the defence which should enable Paolo Maldini and Gianluca Pessotto plenty of scope to make strong overlapping runs from full-back. Cesare Maldini will lose little sleep over the loss of Angelo Peruzzi given the excellence of Italy's other goalkeepers.

Play-off qualifiers, Italy look a good bet for the semi-finals and beyond.

Chile
Odds 100-1
Last five matches (most recent first, Chile first) Tunisia 3-2; Uruguay 2-2; Argentina 0-1; Lithuania 1-0; Colombia 2-2
Group schedule Italy, June 11; Austria, June 17; Cameroon, June 23.

Chile look like Italy's only real rival for top spot in the group. Cesare Maldini was at Wembley in February when they beat England 2-0 and he called them "a very good team".

Like everyone else, Maldini has been impressed by the twin strike force of Marcelo Salas, for whom Lazio have paid River Plate £12.5 million, and Ivan Zamorano. Between them they scored 23 goals in qualifying.

In Jose Luis Sierra they possess a playmaker of vision. Pedro Reyes and Javier Margas form a rugged barrier in defence and are more than capable when in possession.

It is Chile's first appearance in the finals since 1982 when they went out in the first round. But this is a much better equipped side and they should go a lot further this time.

Austria
Odds 150-1
Last five matches (most recent first, Austria first) Tunisia 2-1; United States 0-3; Hungary 2-3; Belarus 4-0; Belarus 1-0; Sweden 1-0
Group schedule Cameroon, June 11; Chile, June 17; Italy, June 23

Austria's experienced coach Herbert Prohaska attempts to maximise his side's limited potential with a cantious defensive formation in which Toni Polster is often cast in a lone role up front. Polster, 33, is Austria's leading scorer of all time with 41 goals and is still capable of causing any side problems.

They have plenty of experience elsewhere in the sweeper Wolfgang Feiersinger, 33, the goalkeeper Michael Konsel, 36, the defender Anton Pfeffer, 33, and the 32-year-old midfielders Peter Stöger and Helmo Pfeifenberger, but age could tell against them.

They are a well-organised side with the sparkle provided by the Werder Bremen midfielder Andreas Herzog.

In their seventh finals, Austria will not want a repeat of their last, when they went out in the first round in 1990.

Cameroon
Odds 150-1
Last five matches (most recent first, Cameroon first) Holland 0-0; Rep of Congo 0-1; Algeria 2-1; Guinea 2-2; Burkina Faso 1-0
Group schedule Austria, June 11; Italy, June 17; Chile, June 23

The fact that Cameroon's French coach Claude Le Roy only took up his appointment on March 31 in the wake of a disappointing African Nations Cup peformance suggests all is not well with the Indomitable Lions.

However, Le Roy has been there before and successfully too, having twice coached Cameroon to the African Nations Cup final in the 1980s. He can call on talented players such as defenders Pierre Wome and Rigobert Song and the striker Francois Omam-Biyik.

Cameroon represent the classic African enigma. They have the talent but do they have the organisation and discipline? Cameroon are no strangers to the finals, having qualified in 1982, 1990 and 1994. They gave England a major fright at Italia '90 when only inexperience, deprived them of a semi-final place.

Cricket

Late Lara hit by fine of £2,000

John Beaumont

BRIAN LARA's failure to arrive in time for Sunday's AXA League game at Taunton cost the Warwickshire and West Indies captain £2,000 yesterday.

It might make only a small dent in Lara's wallet — he is understood to he earning more than £100,000 for the season — but it was the heaviest financial penalty imposed on any player by Warwickshire and was intended to express their disappointment at Lara's failure to keep them informed of his whereabouts.

When Lara left Edgbaston on Tuesday to attend to business in Trinidad, it was intended that he would return on Friday so the county booked him on a flight to Heathrow. But Lara was detained in Trinidad and bad to make his own arrangements, which led to him arriving at Gatwick early on Sunday.

Warwickshira were unaware of Lara's change of plans until late on Saturday and although he arrived at Taunton 15 minutes before the start of Sunday's game, his failure to inform them of his preclae whereabouts meant his name was omitted from the team sheet.

It is the second time this season that Lara has been delayed in the West Indies. He missed a flight at the start of the season which put his appearance at a news conference in doubt, a situation only resolved when Phil Simmons of Leicestershire gave up his seat to allow his Test captain to get to the UK.

Lara declined to make any comment after yesterday's hearing in front of a Warwickshire disciplinary panel which comprised the club chairman M J K Smith, the chief executive Dennls Amlss and a cricket-committee member Jamie McDowall. But he apologised to his team-mates, the committee, members and supporters in a written statement.

Lara intends to make a public apology to his players before tomorrow'a Championship match, assuming of course that he arrives in time. The members might need more convincing and Warwickshire's decision to impose a hefty financial penalty was partly designed to quell any unrest.

Tour match: Gloucestershire v South Africans

Rhodes finds easy route to impress for Test place

David Foot at Nevil Road

BOB WOOLMER, the South Africa coach, last night hinted that Jonty Rhodes was now a strong candidate for Thursday's npening Test at Edgbaston. "I can't recall better cricket from him than this. He played some terrific ahots and put us in a position to win in Bristol."

Rhodes, effervescent as ever, hit 19 fours and two sixes in a colourful and attractive innings, facing nnly 101 balls in under two hours. It is the spectators he leaves out nf breath.

"There's enough pressure in this game without worrying about whether I'm in," he said. "I think this was the quickest I have ever got to 100 without giving a chance. Gary Kirsten even told ma to slow down and stop emharrassing him!" Tha Sonth Africans had declared, leaving Gloncestershire to score 302 off 68 nvers. Kirsten had gone on, with an ominous remorselessness and without risk, to an undefeated 131 and the Man of the Match award.

Gloncestershire's reply was anaemic, all nver in 2½ hours and embarrassment softened only by a whizz-bang last-wicket stand nf 48 hy Jon Lewis and, mnre so, Mika Smith who crashed seven honndsries off 17 balls.

Accepting that the South African bowling was fast, fuller-pitched and twice as threatening as in the first innings, some of the dismissals carrled the resigned air nf over-hospitable hosts determined to make snre their distinguished guests could get away in time to catch an early train.

Tim Hancock stayed for an hour with some deflant boundaries. Matt Windows revealed tha most reliable technique, unlucky then to be confronted by Makhaya Ntini's best ball of the innings. Bnt for too many the liaison with the crease was all too transitory.

Gregor Macmillan, curbing the natural propensities of his daring early aggression, was still sedneed as he hooked to long leg.

Mark Alleyne, already a century maker, now played on without scoring; Roh Cunliffe rapidly lost sight of his departing middle stnmp; Reggie Williams was taken, as he fended off, by another stand-in stumper Gerry Liebenberg.

Seven wickets crumbled in a spineless heap for 36 runs in 13 overs. Ntini, Nantie Hayward and Lance Klnaener were impressively fired up as Gloucestershire tottered on their way to defeat by 167 runs inside 32 overs.

Championship
Middx v Glamorgan

Glamorgan stunned by Ramprakash and Langer

Nigel Fuller at Lord's

MARK Ramprakash and Justin Langer maintained their rich vein of form to earn Middlesex a nine-wicket victory and in the process the England batsman joined the elite band who have taken hundreds off all the first-class counties.

Ramprakash achieved that feat with his 43rd first-class century. Mike Gatting was the last Middlesex player to collect a full set, doing so two years ago with his 90th century.

The final day beckoned with the reigning champions favourite to deny their opponents achieving the highest score of the match to ensure their second championship success of the summer. In the event the Middlesex captain and Langer made nonsense of a 313 target with hundreds rich in quality during an unbroken stand of 276. Ramprakash's century was his third in four innings and Langer reached three figures for the third successive match.

Even allowing for tha absence of Waqar Younis, nursing an injured elbow, Glamorgan were well below par. Their bowlers, apart from Steve Watkin, were too often lacking in length and direction and their efforts in the field left much to be desired. Both batsmen should have been run out before completing centuries.

Langer's let-off came wben he had made 41 and after he had also survived a difficult legside catch to the wicket-keeper on eight, and Ramprakash was the recipient of good fortune when be had made 78.

Well before then Middlesex were on course. Ramprakash had announced his arrival with two scorching drives at the expense of Dean Cosker and was in such imperious mood that his 50 from 83 balls contained 10 boundaries.

Langer excelled with some exquisite driving either side of tha wicket. His 153, containing 20 boundaries, carried his championship aggregate to 765 from only aix completed innings for an average of 127.5. Ramprakash's 128 from 212 balls contained 21 fours.

Storm stops Sussex short

A THUNDERSTORM ended Sussex's pursuit of a long-shot victory yeaterday against Worcestershire at New Road. The openers Toby Peirce and Wasim Khan reached half-centuries in an unbroken partnership of 123 but they were still 296 short of their 419 target when the weather broke at lunch.

The match was abandoned as a draw at 4pm; the result maintained Worcestershire's unbeaten championship record but cost Sussex a chance of tracking Surrey at the top of the table.

Yorkshire were in danger of an embarrassing defeat against Oxford University but clung on to salvage a draw as they reached 209 for seven, having been set a victory target of 291 at The Parks.

The students scented victory when the county slipped to 173 for aaven daspite Michael Vaughan's 59. But Anthony McGrath and Richard Stemp saw out time.

Oxford had earlier recovered from a precarious overnight score of 97 for five to declare on 233 for eight.

Cricket
News and Scores
0930 16 13 +

Counties update

Derbyshire	24	Middlesex	33		
Durham	25	Northants.	34		
Essex	26	Nottingham	35		
Glamorgan	27	Somerset	36		
Gloucs.	28	Surrey	37		
Hampshire	29	Sussex	38		
Kent	30	Warwicks.	39		
Lancs	31	Worcester	40		
Leics.	32	Yorkshire	41		

Complete county scores

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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Scoreboard

Britannic Assurance County Championship

MIDDLESEX v GLAMORGAN

Lord's: Middlesex (22pts) beat Glamorgan (7) by nine wickets.

GLAMORGAN: First innings 308 (P A Cottey 81, S P James 78; Hewitt 5-68).

MIDDLESEX: First innings 258 (D C Nash 78; Watkin 5-30).

GLAMORGAN: Second innings 260 (M J Powell 79no, A O Shaw 61)

MIDDLESEX
Second innings (overnight: 8-0)

J L Langer not out	153
R A Kettleborough c Maynard b Watkin	17
*M R Ramprakash not out	128
Extras (lb14, w2)	16
Total (for 1, 89.2 overs)	314

Fall of wicket: 38.
Bowling: Watkin 18-5-48-1; Thomas 18-3-89-0; Croft 28-7-65-0; Cosker 18-1-73-0; Dale 12-3-36-0; Powell 0.2-0-8-0.
Umpires: V A Holder and G I Burgess.

WORCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

Worcester: Worcestershire (11pts) draw with Sussex (8).

WORCESTERSHIRE: First innings 353-9 dec (G A Hick 104; Lewry 4-104).

SUSSEX: First innings 278 (M G Bevan 98; Lampitt 5-56).

WORCESTERSHIRE: Second innings 343-3 dec (V S Solanki 155, G A Hick 132).

SUSSEX
Second innings (overnight: 35-0)

M T E Peirce not out	51
W G Khan not out	53
Extras (b1, lb8, nb10)	19
Total (for 0, 55 overs)	123

Bowling: Newport 10-4-32-0; Sheriyar 19-6-22-0; Illingworth 13-2-25-0; Lampitt 9-3-15-0; Haynes 4-2-9-0; Moody 6-3-10-0.
Umpires: A A Jones and G Sharp.

County Table

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bl	Pts
Surrey (8)	5	3	1	1	16	15	63
Sussex (18)	5	2	1	2	12	19	69
Durham (17)	5	2	2	1	8	19	62
Derbys (16)	5	2	3	0	8	18	58
Kent (2)	5	2	1	2	4	15	57
Middx (4)	6	2	1	2	9	10	57
Leics (10)	4	2	0	2	8	10	58
Yorks (6)	4	2	2	0	7	14	53
Gloucs (7)	4	2	2	0	5	16	53
Worcs (3)	4	1	0	3	11	11	47
Glam (1)	4	1	1	2	8	16	46
Notts (13)	5	1	3	1	4	18	41
Lancs (11)	4	1	1	2	9	10	40
Warks (4)	4	1	2	1	7	14	40
Northants (15)	4	1	0	3	5	9	39
Som (12)	4	1	2	1	6	11	36
Essex (8)	4	0	3	1	5	14	22
Hants (14)	3	0	1	2	3	7	16

1997 positions in brackets

Other match

The Parks: Oxford University 260-7 dec (D J Eadie 68no, J A M Molins 51) and 233-8 dec (J A G Fulton 78). Yorkshire 203-4 dec (C White 80, M P Vaughan 68) and 209-7 (M P Vaughan 59). Match drawn.

Minor Counties Championship

Askam: Herts 442-4. Cumberland 370-8 (S M Dutton 108, A A Metcalfe 102, J R Moyes 52) Match drawn. Cumberland (8) Herts (10). **Bourne:** Staffs 239 and 178-2 (D K Peshley 59no, R P Harvey 54). Lincs 210 (M R Gouldstone 52; Potter 6-36) and 25-0. Staffs (13) bt Lincs (4) on first innings. **Jesmond:** (20-over game). Northumberland 103-8. Bucks 105-4. Bucks (12) bt Northumberland (2) by six wickets. **Kington:** Dorset 357. Hereford 359-5 (M P Briers 81no, C Boroughs 53, R Hall 50no; Pike 5-129). Hereford (18) bt Dorset (6) on first innings. **Reading:** Berks 385-6 (G E Loveday 205no; Davies 4-81). Wales 201 (R I Clitheroe 58no, O D Hopkins 65; Kendrick 5-62) and following on 100-7 (Kendrick 4-27). Berks (20) bt Wales (2) on first innings. **St Georges** (Telford): Shrops 372-9. Oxon 267 (S V Laudat 77). Shrops (18) bt Oxon (7) on first innings.

AON Trophy

Taunton: Worcestershire 209-9 (Bulbeck 5-37). Somerset 213-6 (K A Barrett 50; Rawnsley 5-34). Somerset won by four wickets.

Tour match

GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SOUTH AFRICANS

Bristol: South Africans won by 167 runs.

SOUTH AFRICANS: First innings 416-8 dec (G Kirsten 125, L Klusener 73no, J N Rhodes 59; Alleyne 4-63).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First innings 403-8 dec (M W Alleyne 109, M G N Windows 68, R C J Williams 67, O I Macmillan 52).

SOUTH AFRICANS
Second innings (overnight: 200-3)

G Kirsten not out	131
J N Rhodes c Williams b Averis	123
J H Kallis not out	2
Extras (lb2, nb4)	6
Total (for 4 dec, 77 overs)	285

Fall of wickets: 9, 80, 105, 281.
Did not bat: M V Boucher, L Klusener, P R Adams, M Hayward, M Ntini.
Bowling: Smith 11-4-29-0; Lewis 16-1-79-1; Averis 18-7-40-2; Ball 15-3-66-0; Alleyne 10-3-37-0; Hancock 7-1-35-1.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Second innings

O I Macmillan c Hayward b Klusener	3
T H C Hancock c Cullinan b Hayward	35
O R Hewson lbw b Klusener	0
*M W Alleyne b Ntini	4
M G N Windows c Liebenberg b Ntini	22
R J Cunliffe b Hayward	3
M C J Ball run out	1
†R C J Williams c Liebenberg b Hayward	0
J Lewis c Kirsten b McMillan	23
J M M Averis c Liebenberg b Ntini	0
A M Smith not out	31
Extras (lb4, nb8)	12
Total (31.5 overs)	134

Fall: 34, 26, 50, 50, 57, 72, 72, 84, 86.
Bowling: Klusener 7-1-23-2; Hayward 11-2-34-3; Ntini 8-3-45-3; Kallis 1-0-4-0; McMillan 3.5-1-14-1; Adams 1-0-12-0.
Umpires: K J Lyons and N T Plews.

Starting today

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (four days; 11.0): **Hove:** Sussex v Kent.
AON TROPHY (one day; 11.0): **Hinckley Tm:** Leicestershire v Warwickshire. **Headingley:** Yorkshire v Lancashire.

Hockey

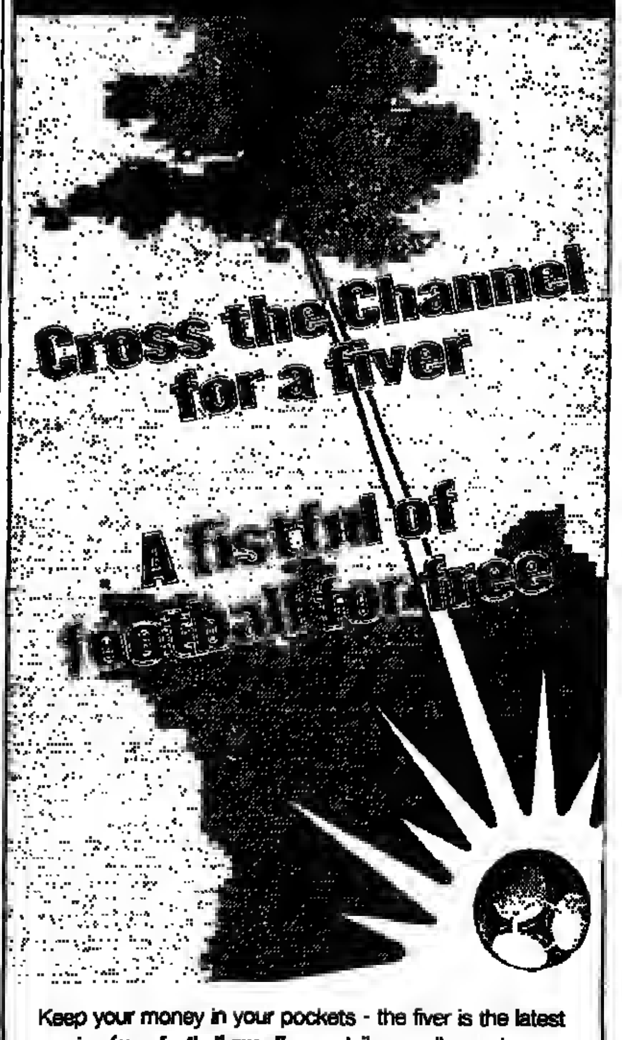
England sixth as cup goes Dutch

ENGLAND finished sixth in the World Cup, just as they did four years ago in Sydney, while Holland won the trophy for the third time by beating Spain in the final with a golden goal, *writes Pat Rowley in Utrecht.*

England were beaten 4-2 by Pakistan in the fifth-place match, Russell Garcia and Calum Giles scoring from two second-half corners after Pakistan had raced into a 4-0 lead in the first half, three of the goals coming in a devastating five-minute spell.

The host country, who came from 2-0 down, scored two goals inside a minute, before beating Spain 3-2 with the golden goal two minutes from the end of extra-time from a corner by Teun de Nooijer. Germany took the bronze, beating Australia 1-0 with a first-half corner goal from Bjorn Michel.

The Guardian



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صكذا من الاصل

Westwood motors on route 66, page 13

Kournikova's tear-jerker, page 13

Lara back in the doghouse, page 15

Ramprakash joins county set, page 15

Sports Guardian

The Hoddle case against Gazza

The magician was in danger of becoming a broken wand, says **David Lacey** in La Manga

GLENN HODDLE has left Paul Gascoigne out of the England World Cup sqnad because he feared that the player was an injury waiting to happen. And when armies move quickly they cannot afford to stop for the wounded.

As a member of Ron Greenwood's World Cup squad in Spain in 1982 and Bobby Robson's England side in Mexico four years later, Hoddle has had first-hand experience of how quickly casualties can disrupt the best-laid plans. Kevin Keegan and Trevor Brooking, crucial to Greenwood, missed almost the whole of the earlier tournament while taking Bryan Robson to Monterrey with a suspect shoulder cost England his services after just two matches.

In Italia 90, Bryan Robson was again forced home early by an injury and it is wrily coincidental that now, as manager of Middlesbrough, he may well suffer the backlash of Gascoigne's bitter disappointment. It is difficult, however, to see how Hoddle could have acted otherwise in the circumstances.

There is some substance in the argument that Gascoigne was the only player England had who might have provided the magician's touch which is often the difference between reaching a World Cup final and finishing among the alsorans. Equally he could have become a broken wand long before Hoddle's team made significant progress.

The England manager has simply looked at the facts as they stood and relied upon the evidence of his own eyes in the three matches against Saudi Arabia at Wembley, and Morocco and Belgium in Casablanca. Having studied the videos he concluded that Gascoigne was not up to it.

Yesterday, moreover, he implied that Gascoigne could have done more to help himself between leaving Rangers for Middlesbrough and joining up with the England squad. "I think that some of his lack of fitness is self-inflicted," Hoddle said, "yes of course, that's obvious. There are a lot of things he could have done, perhaps, to get himself into better shape.

"I've gone out on a limb with Paul," the England coach continued. "I've done so many things to try and make him see what's needed in the modern game from him at the age of 31.

"This is a tournament against the best in the world. I had hoped that he was going to make me feel that he still had something to offer us. But it doesn't take a genius to work out that it hasn't panned out like that."

> 'The majority of his recent injuries have occurred because he's not sharp enough to get away from defenders.'

Gascoigne's entire career has been blighted by injuries but now Hoddle believes that the player's lack of fitness is becoming a contributory factor. "Why is he getting injured?" he asked. "Broadly speaking, it's because he's not physically fit. The majority of his recent injuries have occurred because he's not sharp enough to get away from defenders."

Other countries have gone into World Cups with injured players and found it worth the risk. Karl-Heinz Rummenigge twice came off the bench for West Germany to rouse flagging teams in the tournaments of 1982 and 1986. Roberto Baggio was plainly not fit for Italy at the start of the last World Cup but eventually saw them to the final before missing the crucial kick in the shoot-out with Brazil.

Neither of these players, however, was suffering Gascoigne's overall lack of match fitness and despite the reaction Hoddle has received in some quarters — reminiscent of the way the BBC switchboard was jammed after the death of Grace Archer — he could not afford to keep Gazza in tha squad simply for old time's sake.

"I could have looked back to what he did in Rome and against Cameroon and said fine, I'll take him," Hoddle explained, "but he isn't anywhere nearly in the same shape. His fitness levels are probably lower than they've been for a long time."

Hoddle reckons that he has a weaker England squad without a 100 per cent fit Gascoigne but a stronger one now that the risk of taking a below-par player to France has been removed. Modern top-class foothall, as Hoddle pointed out, is as much about athleticism as it is about technical skills and even Gascoigne's most devoted followers could not claim that he cut an athletic figure in Casablanca last week.

Paul Scholes looks the player most likely to fill Gascoigne's role when England open their World Cup programme against Tunisia in Marseille on Monday week. If Darren Anderton's fitness continues to improve at the present rate he could become an option on the right with David Beckham moving inside, and the long-striding legs of Steve McManaman might worry tiring defenders.

In the end Hoddle did not even want to risk Gascoigne as a substitute. "There's an art to coming off the bench," he said. "You can't take 20 minutes to get into a game."

That, ultimately, was Gascoigne's problem. He took too long too late, and Hoddle had to call time.

Leader comment, page 11; The Unforgiving Hoddle, page 14

Finishing touches . . . Glenn Hoddle closely watches Les Ferdinand train in Spain yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN DEMPSEY

Ethiopian smashes record by five seconds

Duncan Mackay in Hengelo

FIREWORKS exploded in celebration of yet another remarkable performance from Haile Gebrselassie at the Fanny Blankers-Koen Stadion last night. The tiny Ethiopian kept the promise he made nine months ago by setting the 13th world record of his career, establishing figures for the 10,000 metres of 26min 22.75sec.

That took 5.10sec off the Kenyan Paul Tergat's record set in Brussels last August on the night Gebrselassie lost his world record for the 10,000m and 5000m. He was among the first to congratulate Tergat but, as they shook hands, Gebrselassie told him: "I shall regain it in Hengelo."

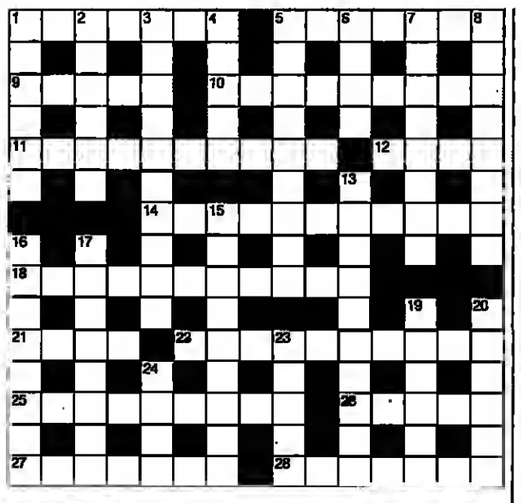
The Olympic champion is the third man to set a world record for the distance three times, joining Emil Zatopek and Ron Clarke. How he loves this quiet town in North-east Holland: it was his fourth world record here in five years. "I expected to go faster," he said. "I will next time."

He had prepared meticulously for this race, returning to Ethiopia to train at altitude and bringing three of his team-mates here to help set the pace. They helped Gebrselassie to halfway in 13:11:53, before leaving him to run the last four kilometres on his own. He was then helped by the 20,000 capacity crowd who cheered home the man they have christened "Mr Hengelo". As "Scatman", Gebrselassie's favourite techno track, blared out over the loudspeakers they banged against the advertising boards to inspire him to a last lap of 58sec.

Meeting report, page 14

Guardian Crossword No 21,290

Set by Fawley

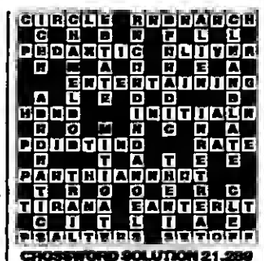


Across

1 Drink from this, getting drunk — but jog memory, finally (4,3)
5 Show old lover greeting was cutting? (7)
9 Sarah's son has given nomination for SF writer (5)
10 Going batty during the night? (9)
11 When it's heard, would run back to identify this predator (6,4)
12 Almost do unpaid work for The European? (4)
14,18 Showing off means being extravagant, (11,11)
21 With cover rejected, left in something of a pickle! (4)
22 Men from the board go to ground in part of Australia (10)
25 Stymied, if given cryptic version? (9)
26 One-night stand nearly brightened up operatic tenor (5)
27 Are old-fashioned school group offered creative activity . . . (3,4)
28 . . . idle? Author's output hardly lacks content (7)

Down

1 Score half as many again? (6)
2,17 Composers idiomatically describing 24, most of the time (6,3,5)
3 The racing fraternity make dodgy manoeuvres with minor suit (6,4)
4 Using some jargon, owing to a big 60s' hit? (2,3)
5 Trees defined by poor clue? A pity! (9)
6 Passage read aloud is a bit of a drag (4)
7,19 Gloomy individual perhaps collected material from comics? (6,2,6)
8 Put on a show over the Channel (8)
13 Being too cool with darling that's fine and sweet (5,5)
15 Newish element one commonly found in Pentium processing (9)
16 Account one intended writing up for scholarly circles (8)
17 See 2
19 See 7
20 Strange trait producing uneven quality? (6)
23 Mostly wonder about fund for the future (5)
24 Lush vegetation could be one's problem (4)



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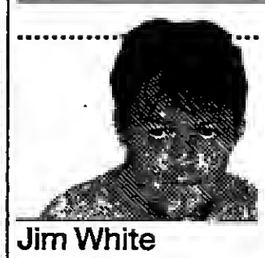


Jim White

Park life and a winter sport crossing boundary

DURING England's tour of the Caribbean over the winter, much was made of the decline in West Indies cricket, particularly in Jamaica.

Not out at the wicket, perhaps, where England were dispatched with customary speed. But on the beaches, on the scrubland in Kingston, in the open public spaces where the locals gather in their spare time. Here a revolution was going on. Instead of playing pick-up games of cricket, matches which had provided the backdrop for a thousand colour reports over the years, West indians young and old were doing something new. They were playing football.

More inspired by the Reggae Boyz than Lara's Lads, they were in the grip of an intoxicating addiction: World Cup fever. They had increased the size of the ball, dropped the sight-screen in favour of the goalpost and swapped flannels for lurid yellow nylon shirts with a pattern down the chest seemingly modelled on a baby's bib after the baby has just thrown up its pea soup.

Being filled by enthusiasts for cricket, the articles about a new sporting love affair carried a moral undertone. This shift of allegiances was reported as if it signalled a decline in the nation's fabric similar to the one which occurred when marijuana was superseded as the local drug of choice by crack cocaine.

It makes one wonder what the same writers would make of a walk through any park in Britain over the last few days. What they will have seen, as the sun made its first sustained appearance of the year, is dozens of young enthusiasts, red-faced and lobster-shouldered, sweating their way through games of football.

They will have seen boys in Brazil shirts fantasising that they were Ronaldo, boys in England shirts practising Shearer celebrations, girls, studied and determined, honing their Asprilla cartwheels. What they won't have seen — in weather perfect for it — is much in the way of pick-up cricket. There will have been the occasional apologetic game, of course, usually involving an eager father and several reluctant fielders, enviously eyeing the football game going on next door.

But in general, in the parks of Britain, cricket has been reduced to the status of Frisbee or aimlessly chucking a stick for the dog: something you might do occasionally but not really mean it.

You can see it everywhere in this country. Cricket, once our national summer pursuit, is being crushed by the juggernaut that is football, a game which no longer respects boundaries of season.

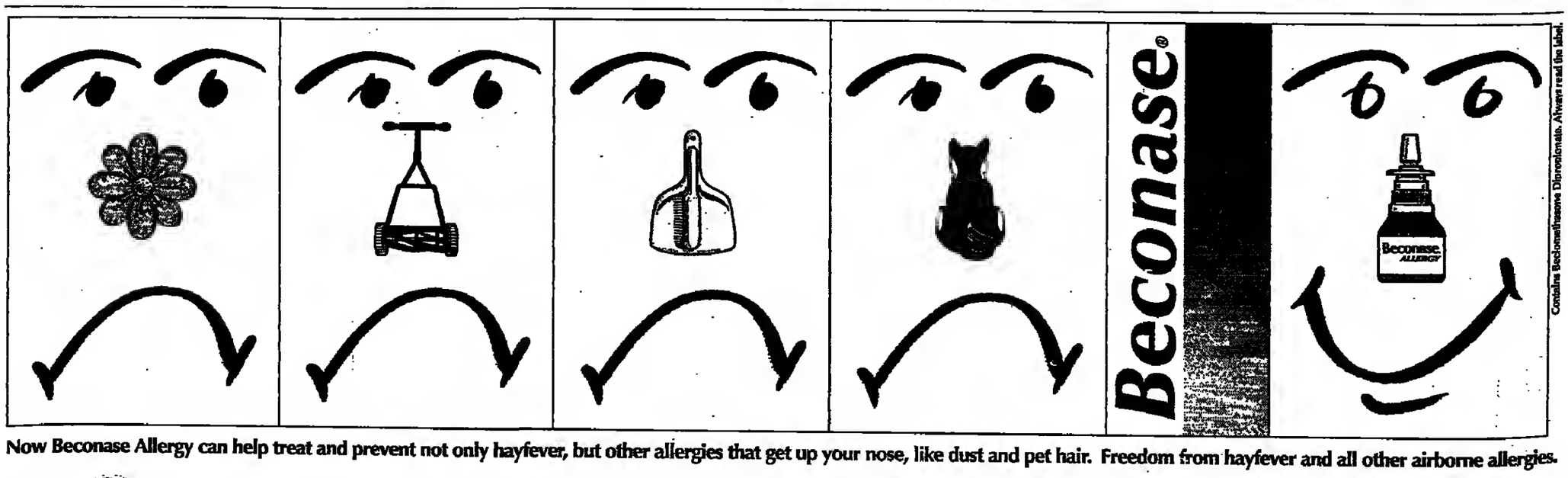
THE intriguing question is not the moral one proposed by those commenting on the West Indian experience. There is nothing intrinsically inferior about football, nothing delinquent in a preference for pig's bladder.

What is interesting — and vital for its well-being — is what cricket can do to reverse its comparative fall in the affections of the nation's youth. How can it recover from a situation in which the average 10-year-old in Britain is more likely to be able to name three members of the Belgian World Cup squad than three players in the England cricket team? How can it, in short, become our summer game again?

Some counties — Essex, for instance — have been proselytizing, taking cricket to primary schools, encouraging girls to play, offering free coaching sessions. They know that the best way to create a new generation of spectators is first to encourage participation in the game. But the game needs more than spirited grassroots work like this. It needs a lead from the top.

Sorting out the shape of the County Championship would be a start, though frankly that is of relevance mainly to the 35 people across the country who regularly attend matches.

What cricket needs most of all is role models, heroes who will encourage worm-riddled bats to be removed from garden sheds and played with. This week, it may pass unnoticed under the subcontinental levels of fall-out from the Gazza sacking, the Test series starts. A resounding, uplifting, thumping victory against South Africa is what English cricket needs to remind everyone it is still being played in the World Cup summer. In which case we can expect Ronaldo, Shearer and chums to hold sway for a little longer.



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